

JPRS 82882

16 February 1983

Southeast Asia Report

No. 1253

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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16 February 1983

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

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BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO JAPAN--The federal government has sent a delegation to Tokyo to discuss the impact of industrial action on Australia's trade with Asia and the Pacific. The delegation led by Aviation Minister Fife will officially represent at the ninth conference of the Asian and Pacific labor ministers. One of the key issues for the Australians is Japan's view of the industrial relations climate and the way it affects trade relations between Tokyo and Canberra. Senior government officials are reported to saying some Australia exporters fear that misunderstandings have arisen between the two countries. The delegation is expected to tell the Japanese that there is nothing discriminatory about the industrial action. Employment and Industrial Relations Minister MacPhee was to have led the delegation but duties in Canberra prevented him from going. He is now expected to lead a group of senior employer and union representatives to Japan and South Korea later this year. [Text] [BK171717 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 83 BK]

VICTORIA GRAIN OUTPUT--Figures released by the Victorian Grain Elevators Board show that the state's grain harvest will be down by a massive 90 percent from last season because of the drought. The board's chairman, Mr (Gross), says have now delivered 330,000 tons of grain to the elevator system, including nearly 300,000 tons of wheat. Last season, farmers delivered 3.29 million tons of grain to the grain elevators board. (Gross) says the grain harvest--the smallest on record because of the drought--is virtually finished. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 83 BK]

ANTARCTIC MINERALS--The major Antarctic treaty nations are said to be satisfied that Australia and other countries have not violated international agreements prohibiting oil exploration on the continent. (Chris Bebe), the chairman of a meeting on the Antarctic mineral resources, which has just ended in the New Zealand capital, Wellington, said none of the 14 nations with consultative status within the treaty had made any allegation against another. Mr (Bebe) said the 14 countries had made a mutual commitment to abstain from exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the Antarctic until agreement had been reached on how this should be done. Earlier this week, the chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, Sir Peter Scott, accused Australia, Japan, France and West Germany of searching for oil on the continent. The governments of the four countries, all of which hold consultative status within the Antarctic treaty, subsequently denied the allegation. [Text] [BK290913 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 83]

LIFTING STRIKES RECOMMENDED--The Australian Council of Trade Unions [ACTU] has recommended the lifting of current strikes and work bans in the oil industry. The decision was made at a meeting of the ACTU's tactics committee in Melbourne today to prevent the government from using the industrial action over demands for an 8-percent pay increase as an election issue. It was reached after an appeal from the Labor Party's spokesman on industrial relations, Mr Hawke, for restraint. Mr Hawke will be the only candidate for the leadership of the party when its present leader, Mr Hayden, steps down from the position on Tuesday. The vice president of the ACTU, Mr Crean, said the decision to suspend the industrial action would undoubtedly help the Labor Party in its bid to win government. He said the industrial action had always been aimed primarily against the government and not the public, and the unions now realized that the best way to gain their pay claim was to help defeat the Fraser government. [Text] [BK040945 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Feb 83]

SHARE MARKET PLUNGES--Australian share markets have reacted violently to today's political events and prices have tumbled. Throughout most of the afternoon's trading, there was frantic selling across the board and in all major stocks. Gold stocks fell significantly despite higher world prices for the metal. Radio Australia's finance reporter says the political announcements today have cast a shadow over the possible entry of foreign banks into Australia in the foreseeable future. He says observers feel that foreigner banks may be wary of coming to Australia following comments by the opposition spokesman on the economy, Mr Keating, that a labor government would not welcome foreign banking institutions. The federal government announced last month that it would allow another 10 foreign banks to operate in Australia, provided they fulfill conditions on allowing local equity. [Text] [BK030928 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 83]

CSO: 4200/338

BRIEFS

RICE FOR INDONESIA, SRI LANKA--The Burmese trade delegation led by Deputy Trade Minister U Khun Maung Yi returned to Rangoon by a Burma Airways aircraft on the morning of 26 January after visiting Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The delegation was welcomed at Rangoon airport by Trade Minister U Khin Maung Yi, responsible officials of the Trade Ministry, Indonesian Ambassador to Burma Asnawi Mangkualam, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Burma Piyadasa Wijenarayana and the commercial counsellor of the PRC Embassy, (Hou Dengging). The Burmese trade delegation sold 45,000 tons of rice to Indonesia and 100,000 tons of rice to Sri Lanka through the PRC. The Burmese trade delegation had left Rangoon on 12 January. [BK010655 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Jan 83 BK]

CSO: 4211/16

FRETILIN PROGRAM BASED ON SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 12 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] Jose Ramos Horta, the representative of the FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for East Timor Independence] in the United Nations, said in an interview with Radio Renascenca of Lisbon that the political statement made by that Front for the independence of East Timor is based on "universal social democratic principles."

Ramos Horta denies the charges that the FRETILIN is Marxist and pro-Soviet with which Indonesia has achieved some diplomatic successes in its propaganda campaign. He adds that the FRETILIN "has a majority of Catholics in its ranks, and specifically that many of its present cadre attended Jesuit seminaries."

Anticipating that an Indonesian offensive will soon be launched at the summit of nonaligned nations to be held this year in New Delhi, Ramos Horta states that the FRETILIN is now taking steps to prepare a clarification, along with the Portuguese-speaking African nations, in addition to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Latin American countries.

For Ramos Horta, it is "a fact of extreme importance" that the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs will be focusing its attention for the first time on the East Timor matter next February; as for what has been done in Portugal to support the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination, the FRETILIN staffer stressed the role of the committee headed by Manuel Tilman of the ASDI [Interdependent Social Democratic Association] and the "positive attitude" of the nation's president and the "rather meritorious action" showed by the government during the latter part of 1982.

Ramos Horta also said that the people of East Timor alone have the right to decide on their future under the one-man one-vote system monitored by the United Nations.

8089

CSO: 3442/99

MINISTER PRAWIRO DISCUSSES DROP OF NONOIL EXPORTS

BK310827 Jakarta OANA in English 0733 GMT 31 Jan 83

["Pool item"]

[Text] Jakarta, 31 Jan (ANTARA/OANA)--Minister of trade and cooperative Radius Prawiro emphasized that the present world economic recession had weakened the industrialized country's capacity of accommodating the exports of the developing nations, and caused a drop in Indonesia's foreign exchange earnings from non-oil exports.

The export of the developing country mainly comprised agricultural products.

Speaking at a working conference of governors here Saturday, Minister Radius Prawiro said further that the adverse effects of the recession will be deeper as Indonesia's oil exports will also not be very bright, while still playing a leading role in foreign exchange revenues. [sentence as received]

Citing data at the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) the minister said Indonesia's non-oil export value for January-September 1982 dropped 14 percent compared to the corresponding period of the preceding year, namely from US dollars 3,378.7 [as received] to US dollars 2,903.4 million.

The drop particularly affected the export of agricultural produce, while that of mining products slightly decreased in value although the volume increased.

The exports of industrial products increased both in value and in volume, but that of agricultural products dropped to 24.8 percent, and its volume to 22.7 percent, the minister told the conferences. [sentence as received]

As regards the 1982 exports of agricultural products, the minister said that those of several commodities increased, both in value and in volume, such as fresh/frozen shrimp, tuna and uncooked hide while some other commodities, including coffee, tea, pepper, palm oil, etc., dropped in their exports.

But the exports of a number of other commodities, such as logs, rubber, dried cassava and tobacco, dropped both in value and in volume.

Unlike agricultural produce, the exports of industrial products continued to show an upward trend, both in value and in volume.

While in 1981 the exports of industrial products contributed only 15 percent to the country's foreign exchange earnings from non-oil exports, in 1982 the level increased to 21 percent, he said.

Agricultural commodities, he said, were very sensitive to international price fluctuations, and their prices were inclined to continue to drop, while the case with industrial commodities was on the other way around, he said. For this reason, industrial exports must be further boosted in the years to come.

Another source of foreign exchange earnings, which should also be promoted, he said, was the sector of tourism. The government in this case has decided to grant more facilities with a view to increasing the flow of foreign tourists to Indonesia.

CSO: 4200/340

INDONESIA

COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA IN DEFENSE URGED

BK311147 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 26 Jan 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Defense Cooperation Between Indonesia and Australia"]

[Text] Indonesia and Australia are immediate neighbours, closely linked to each other by geography and mutual interest. The condition and development in each country are bound to influence and affect each other's welfare, defence and security.

During the old order Australia was very worried and concerned with the powerful role played by the Communist Party of Indonesia [PKI] in the state affairs. Australia considered communism in Indonesia as a threat to its existence. But since the new order, Marxism and the PKI have been banned in Indonesia; and Indonesia has been busy engaging itself in development to raise the standard of the well being of the Indonesian people and to secure their security to thwart off any attempt of the PKI to come back. All these developments are to the advantage of Australia and there is no more reason for Australia not to have close and cordial relations and cooperation with Indonesia.

As a matter of fact, relations and cooperation between the two countries have been cordial and excellent except for a short duration when there had been misunderstanding by a section of Australian public opinion and mass media regarding the integration of East Timor to Indonesia.

Now that this short period of misunderstanding is over, the existing cooperation between the two countries can be further advanced and strengthened.

Now the minister of defence of Australia, Ian McCahon Sinclair, is here on a seven-day official visit. East Timor and Irian Jaya are in his itinerary. This will be the first time that an Australian minister visits East Timor since it has become the 27th province of Indonesia. This is tantamount to the reiteration of the Australian Government support to the position of the Indonesian Government with regard to the integration and a sign that East Timor does not any more bother public opinion in Australia.

With the restoration of warmth and cordiality of the relations, both countries will be able to step up defence cooperation between the two countries. Australian defence minister stressed on the other day defence cooperation in the fields of

military education and training and the supply of military equipment. Many Indonesian military personnel and officers have been educated and trained in Australia. Indonesia has also received a number of military equipment from Australia.

Indonesia is a non-aligned developing country. Its defence cooperation with Australia is not a pact nor is it for aggressive purposes. It is simply to strengthen its defence and security. Defense Minister M. Yusuf explained on the other day that Indonesia is currently engaged in strengthening stability and security to facilitate the implementation of national development which will in its turn shore up national resilience.

Australia may consider this as making Indonesia a better shield against the threat from the north.

But in the long run, Indonesia will have to depend on itself for the supply of arms and equipment. Therefore, the establishment of defence industries is a must. Actually Indonesia is already engaged in small military industries like the military section of the Nurtanio Aircraft industry, the naval ship making industry, PAL, and the ordnance manufacturing industry, PINDAD.

In the talks between the visiting Australian defence minister and the Indonesian state minister for research and technology, Prof. B. J. Habibie, on Monday, possibilities of Indonesian-Australian cooperation in defence industries were discussed. According to Prof. Habibie, the Australian defence minister expressed Australia's interest in the possibilities of cooperation with Indonesia in military industries especially in the areas where Indonesia is already engaged.

We are of the opinion that such cooperation is beneficial for both countries. The sooner it starts the better.

CSO: 4200/340

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

NEW DELHI SUMMIT--Foreign Minister Mohktar Kusumaatmaja has warned of the grave implications arising from the rejection of the Democratic Kampuchean seat at the upcoming nonaligned summit in New Delhi in March. He said this in Bangkok before leaving the Thai capital for Jakarta yesterday [27 January]. He said that the upcoming nonaligned summit will also give an indication whether Burma will withdraw from the nonaligned movement. At the Havana summit meeting in 1979 Burma threatened to withdraw from the movement because the summit was deviating from the original aim of the nonaligned movement. [Text] [BK281059 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 27 Jan 83]

CSO: 4213/511

BRIEFS

GDR AMBASSADOR VISIT--Phnom Penh, 26 Jan (SPK)--GDR ambassador to Kampuchea Gunter Horn visited the office of the paper KAMPUCHEA on 24 January and was received by Khieu Kandarith, the paper's editor. The ambassador briefed his host on the situation in the GDR and the peace stand of the Warsaw Pact countries. Khieu Kanharith talked about the KPRP peace policy and expressed support for the peace policy of the GDR and the recent proposals of the Warsaw Pact. [Text] [BK311036 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0441 GMT 27 Jan 83 BK]

SOVIET KOMSOMOL DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 26 Jan (SPK)--At the end of its 6-day visit to Kampuchea, the Komsomol delegation led by Fedorenko Evgueni, departmental deputy chief of the Komsomol Central Committee, left Phnom Penh on 25 January. During its stay in Kampuchea, it was received by Sam Sundoeun, vice chairman of the Kampuchean Revolutionary Youth Organization. It also met representatives of Phnom Penh youths. It visited the mass graves at Cheung Ek, the Tuol Sleng School-Prison, the National Museum and the former Royal Palace. It also visited educational, sanitary and industrial establishments and orphanages in Phnom Penh and the model village of Kouk Trap, Kandal Province. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 1445 GMT 26 Jan 83 BK]

KOMPONG CHAM TRANSPORT SERVICE--Phnom Penh, 26 Jan (SPK)--In 1982 the posts, transport and communications service of Kompong Cham Province, 100 km northeast of Phnom Penh, channeled 10,500 metric tons of goods between the provincial seat and districts. Also, more than 13,570 passengers were transported. Different harbors along the Mekong loaded and unloaded thousands of metric tons of agricultural products. With the aid of local people, workers of the service embanked portions of road, repaired bridges and built a new 137-meter-long concrete bridge in Svay Sach Phnum Commune, Srei Santhor District. The workers also repaired 100 cars. Reception and distribution of postal packages and letters gave satisfying results. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in French 0451 GMT 26 Jan 83 BK]

SRV BANK DELEGATION--A delegation of the SRV Foreign Trade Bank led by Comrade (Le Phong), deputy director of the SRV National Bank and director of the Foreign Trade Bank, arrived in Phnom Penh on the morning of 27 January for an official friendship visit to the PRK. Welcoming the friendly delegation at the airport were Comrade Chea Chanto, deputy director general of the Kampuchean People's National Bank and president of the Kampuchean Foreign Trade Bank, and many cadres. [Text] [BK311036 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Jan 83 BK]

MESSAGE TO SRV--On 15 January, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Comrade Souphanouvong, chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the LPDR Supreme People's Council, sent a message of thanks to Comrade Heng Samrin, KPRP general secretary; Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and the KUFNCD National Council; and Comrade Chan Si, chairman of the Council of Ministers, who sent congratulations on the seventh founding anniversary of the LPDR. The message said, among other things: We are very pleased to see that the relations of friendship and peace between our two peoples are being strengthened for the benefit of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world. May the Kampuchean people, under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP headed by Comrade Heng Samrin, achieve new and greater victories in the tasks of defending and building socialism and safeguarding the special militant solidarity between our three Indochinese peoples. May the special militant solidarity and all-sided cooperation between the parties, and peoples of our two countries last forever. [Text] [BK281412 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Jan 83]

CSO: 4212/20

BRIEFS

PHARMACEUTICAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE--Bangkok -The Laotian authorities have recently signed a supply contract with the health division of the Rhone-Poulenc company for pharmaceutical products, antibiotics and particularly medical materials. This order--the first one France has gotten since 1975--comes to a total of about one million dollars. During the course of this year, it will serve to supply the future state pharmacies of Vientiane and hence, to fight the black market of drugs secretly imported from neighboring Thailand or sent in the form of family parcels by Laotian refugees abroad. Moreover, during the first quarter of 1983, talks should begin between the Laotian Ministry of Health and the health division of Rhone-Poulenc concerning the creation of a mixed production company. In this case, it would be a question of enlarging the Vientiane plant and adding the manufacturing of antibiotics to that of aspirin and vitamins. Rhone-Poulenc already has a "bridgehead" in Vietnam, in Ho Chi Minh City. "We have taken some risks, but we do not regret it," states Mr. Frederic Benoliel, their permanent field representative. In fact, in February of 1979, the French firm, along with the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, set up a mixed medicine manufacturing company--Vinaspecia --in which the French firm holds 49% of the capital. It is, moreover, a privileged trade partner of the southern metropolis which, last year, bought 15 million dollars worth of diverse products from it. [By Jacques de Barrin, Special Correspondent in Southeast Asia] [text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 6 Jan 83 p 6] 9895

SRV RADIO-TELEVISION DELEGATION--Vientiane, 19 Jan (KPL)--A technical delegation of the [Radio] Broadcasting and Television Commission of Vietnam led by Deputy-Director General Trinh Ly Than, on January 17, arrived here for a friendship visit. The delegation was received at the airport by Bounmek Phengsavan, head of the Lao TV Commission under the State Committee for News Agencies, Newspaper, Radio and Television, and a number of Lao officials. The Vietnamese representative of economic counsellor to Laos was also on hand. [Text] [BK231546 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 19 Jan 83 BK]

SRV CULTURAL DELEGATION--Vientiane, 21 Jan (OANA-KPL)--A delegation of fine arts and culture of the VCP Central Committee led by Ha Xuan Truong, alternate-member of the VCP Central Committee, head of the leading committee of fine arts and culture of the party, and also deputy-minister of culture and information of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, yesterday morning arrived here for a friendship visit. The Vietnamese delegation was greeted at the airport by Sisana Sisan, member of the LPRP Central Committee and minister of culture, Pheli Khounlaleuk, deputy-minister of culture. Le Huu Vi, advisor of the Vietnamese Embassy to Laos, was also present. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 21 Jan 83 BK]

COOPERATION WITH CSSR--Vientiane, 21 Jan (OANA-KPL)--Talks for scientific and technical cooperation for the next three years (1983-85) between Laos and Czechoslovakia were held here yesterday. The delegations were headed by: On the Lao side, B. Phitsamai, minister of education and chairman of sub-commission for scientific and technical cooperation between Laos and Czechoslovakia, and on the Czechoslovak side, K. Houben, minister to the premier's office and chairman of subcommission for scientific and technical cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Laos. K. Khamphaphongphan, deputy-minister of industry, handicraft and forestry, and vice-chairman of the sub-commission, and A. Kover, commercial counselor of Czechoslovak Embassy to Laos, were also present. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 21 Jan 83 BK]

CSO: 4200/347

INDIA MUST SET EXAMPLE AT NONALIGNED MEETING

BK281057 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It has been reported that the Indian Government has sent envoys to over 40 nations who are members of the nonaligned movement to make the March nonalignment summit a success. The Indian Government appreciates the serious difficulties faced by the movement which is in bad need of defining and delineating a new path for the future after its objectives were derailed by Fidel Castro at the last Havana summit.

But the question that would really decide the future of the movement is the problem of seating of the Democratic Kampuchea Government. The Indian Government has stated that the vacant Kampuchean seat was an issue that it inherited from the last summit at Havana and that it did not have the power to alter the decision taken at the former meeting. The problem was inherited by India as a host nation.

But the Malaysian foreign minister, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, has stated that Malaysia was not asking India to overrule that record. It was only asking India to exercise her nonalignment by permitting Prince Sihanouk to be in New Delhi during the period of the summit. Prince Sihanouk should be allowed to attend the summit in his personal capacity, since he was a founder member of the movement. India has stated that it is in no position to do this and that its recognition of the Heng Samrin regime does not allow it to invite Prince Sihanouk. There is also no precedent for permitting the attendance of a founder member.

But what India cannot ignore is the acceptance of the Democratic Kampuchea Government by the vast majority of nations. Of the 97 members of the movement, 62 had voted for the Democratic Kampuchean delegation in the United Nations last year. Surely, this figure is large enough to attain a consensus on this question. A consensus is arrived at if the issue is supported by the vast majority of members. At the same time, it must be remembered that a consensus also means the acceptance of the minority of the decision by the majority.

If the nonaligned summit does not accept this, then it is time that the rules of the consensus may be redefined.

Malaysia has not accepted the opinion and ruling imposed by Fidel Castro at the Havana summit when he stated that the Kampuchea seat be left vacant because of lack of consensus. If this principle of a lack of consensus is applied strictly, then Vietnam and Cuba, who are literal [word indistinct] of the Moscow regime, should not be allowed representation.

The question, thus, is whether the nonalignment movement decides on something by seeking and achieving a consensus or does it decide on the lack of one. The point to be made is that there is a definite consensus in favor of seating the coalition Democratic Kampuchean Government, which New Delhi can only ignore or oppose at the cost of breaking up the movement.

As one local commentator put it, the New Delhi summit will have to take the divisive issues by the horns if it is to survive. The process of decision-making by consensus must be clarified and sanctified to prevent a recurrence of Havana. The host has the honor of chairing the plenary sessions. Procedural matters are within the purview. They must display their nonalignment in divisions from the chair. Otherwise, after New Delhi there may not be a chair or even a nonalignment movement to speak of.

CSO: 4200/341

BRIEFS

NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION--Penang, northwestern Malaysia, 25 Jan (AFP)--A new political organisation, known as the "Malaysian People's Convention" and merging three opposition parties, was launched here last night. The organisation is headed by Fan Yew Tang, a former leader of the Chinese-based Democratic Action Party, who had "disappeared" from the Malaysian political scene after the 1969 racial riots. The three parties in the opposition coalition are the leftwing "Barisan Rakyat Malaysia"--Malaysian People's Front (BARA), the Socialist Democratic Party (SDP) and the Workers Party. Fan Yew Tang, who returned to Malaysia recently after spending several years in England and Europe, said that a special committee set up by the convention would meet in Kuala Lumpur on February 27 to prepare its constitution, rules and regulations. The new party is expected to spearhead a campaign to safeguard human rights, and the interests of trade unions and student bodies in the country. [Text] [BK260519 Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 25 Jan 83 BK]

ILLEGAL VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS--A task force appointed to deal with illegal Vietnamese immigrants has successfully contained the security threat posed by these immigrants. This was the result of proper approach adopted by members of the task force in dealing with the immigrants. This was stated by the outgoing chief of the task force, Maj Gen Haji (Ahmad Haji Abdul Kadir), in Kuala Lumpur today. He notes that there are still 12,000 illegal Vietnamese immigrants remaining in the two camps at Bidong Island near Kelantan and Sungei Besi in Kuala Lumpur. The general officer commanding of Sabah and Sarawak, Maj Gen Datuk (Abdullah Shamsuddin), has been appointed the new chief of task force. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Jan 83 BK]

'BERNAMA' ASEAN NEWS SERVICE--BERNAMA has announced in Kuala Lumpur that beginning 1 February it will start a news service on daily developments in ASEAN countries specially tailored for decision makers, professionals and academics. The ASEAN file will carry the day's most important news events and developments on politics, economy, culture and sports in each ASEAN country as well as news from elsewhere that concern the organization as a whole. [BK231343 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Jan 83 BK] BERNAMA will draw on the resources of the agency's network of correspondents throughout the country and in all the ASEAN capitals, the news agencies of the other ASEAN countries, and more than 20 other international and national news agencies with which BERNAMA has news arrangements. The ASEAN file will be published every day except Sundays and public holidays and will be delivered in the morning. [Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 23 Jan 83 BK]

SARAWAK COMMUNIST STRENGTH--The outgoing region II Commander Maj Gen Abdullah Shamsuddin has said in Kuching that there are about 100 communist terrorists still active in Sarawak--about 80 of them operating in the Rejang Security Command area and the rest in the First Division region. [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 21 Jan 83 BK]

MAHATHIR VISIT TO JAPAN--Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed says Japan has agreed to follow ASEAN's line of policy with regard to the Kampuchean question. Japan also agreed to look into the possibility of providing nonmilitary aid to the government of Democratic Kampuchea. This was stated by the prime minister at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur today. He returned home last night after a weeklong visit to Japan. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir disclosed that the Japanese prime minister had accepted an invitation to visit Malaysia in May. However, the actual date will be decided later. The prime minister also says the Japanese Government has given an assurance that Tokyo will urge Japanese companies dealing with oil to import more crude from Malaysia. He points out that there is no rejection from Japan to purchase more crude from the country as reported. On the supply of liquified natural gas, he says the pricing agreement between the two countries has already been concluded. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir went on to say that Japan would send a large delegation of industrialists to Kuala Lumpur soon to look into the possibility of setting up joint venture industries. Manufactured items by these industries will be exported to Japan. The prime minister called on Malaysian businessmen to team up in forming trading companies in line with Sogo Shosha [Japanese trading companies] the move will help service subsidiary companies and other sectors of the economy and enable them [as heard] bigger volume of total turnover in business and reap higher profits. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir went on to say that his next trip will be to the Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in April after attending the nonaligned summit in New Delhi in March. The prime minister is to visit 13 countries this year. [Text] [BK300939 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Jan 83]

CSO: 4200/341

PROBLEMS OF FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE DESCRIBED

Paris LE MONDE in French 16-17 Jan 83 p 12

[Article by Michel Sole-Richard: "If Blood Flows There Will be Two"]

[Text] Noumea--The inscription was traced in large black letters under an advertisement for Algeria, a North African product: "If blood flows there will be two." An anonymous reply to an earlier sentence attributed to the pro-independence front that had enjoyed success with the "Caldoches," as the inhabitants of European stock are called: "At independence, blood will flow." A reply that is all the more significant because of its relationship with Algeria, but also because, since 10 January--after the assassination in September 1981 of the secretary general of the principal independentist party, Pierre Declercq, a native of Halluin (North)--European blood has been flowing again. On the occasion of the murder of two mobile policemen, these Algerian-born Frenchmen who are known as "Caldoches" wanted to show that they were to be reckoned with on this distant outpost of French soil that is a victim of independence fever.

The RPCR (Rally for Caledonia in the Republic, a movement close to the RPR) had therefore invited the populace to go to the monument to the dead on Friday 14 January to pay homage to the memory of the two victims. A demonstration that was not without ulterior motive two months before the municipal elections, especially since on that same day there appeared in the only daily newspaper, LES NOUVELLES CALEDONIENNES, a call for "sacred unity" launched by the mayor of Noumea, Roger Laroque (RPCR). The latter, at the "solemn and silent" rally "for the soldiers killed in the service of the Republic," asked that everyone, in the midst of the applause, hold himself "ready for any call, always with the same goal."

What goal? To demonstrate his devotion to France in the face of pro-independence machinations. The meaning of this homage was clear, as witness the small tri-color flags planted in the flood of flower sprays or held in the participants' hands. It is true that all this had a perfume that had previously been smelled on the esplanade in Algiers in front of the governor's house. Nothing was missing: the former parachutists with their red berets, the few Melanesians with their decorations, the last post bugle call and these two banners: "Everyone united against destabilization!" and "Destabilization = Assassination!"

There were no incidents, other than an attack on a journalist from Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) who made the mistake of wearing a red belt, and on his

neighbor, an Australian journalist, Helen Fraser, whose writings had been deemed too outspoken against the French presence in New Caledonia. Both took refuge in the nearby police station when the blows began to rain down. The incident aroused passions. A Caledonian shouted before the television cameras that his country is New Caledonia, that he was born there, that he wants to remain there and die there. A former policeman, now retired, rose up against the political stench of this rally: "It is a disgrace! They are using everything as an excuse to play politics! If the necessary had been done for the Canaques things wouldn't have gone this far and there would be no pro-independence movement. They would have been penned up in the reserves. They have to be given something to live on." One "false" note, very dissonant in this concert so favorable to New Caledonia's devotion to France.

Mr Emmanuelli Insulted

The drama of Koinde indisputably contributed to further deepening of the gulf separating the Melanesians from the Europeans. There is now a clean break, as witness the anxiety. It might be called the Rhodesian syndrome, although here the white community is in the majority, to say nothing of the other ethnic groups: Wallisian, Tahitian, Indochinese, Polynesian. However, one must mistrust the pseudo-similitudes of history. In any case, the disarray is profound and denotes many apprehensions in the face of a situation that is manifestly intensifying. Caledonians are on the alert and do not intend to bear the brunt of that desire for independence that is becoming increasingly clear and that they are rejecting with all their strength. This is really the last toppling of the colonial epic of this Pacific Far West.

Henri Emmanuelli, the secretary of state for DOM-TOM [Overseas Departments and Territories], was dragged through the mud, booed, insulted, for calling what happened in Koinde an "incident." "His words were cynical, ill-intentioned and culpable. He is untrustworthy and distrusted. He is appalling and dangerous," proclaims the mayor of Farino, Henri Mariotti. That elected representative, who was ready to raise vigilance militias to fight the "Canaque, racist and socialist" pro-independence movement, "is a perfect illustration of the dreaded system. "I have worked hard for 37 years. We have been there for three generations. I have never fired a shot at a Canaque and I don't want a bloody independence. I am honest, a good Frenchman and a good Caledonian. Be sure and say that we are French and that we want to remain French. I am not a skinned animal, as they are saying, but I am an angry man. Independence would be a poor choice for Caledonia. It is unthinkable! It is the worst of all solutions. The Europeans have rights and we do not intend to let ourselves be dispossessed. With the real estate reform, I sold 700 hectares in the area. Today they are lying fallow. The Canaques have done nothing with them. These crude, simple people who in 100 years have passed from the stone age to the atomic age, they don't want to work and they spend their time drinking. The sale of alcohol is forbidden here on the weekend. There are inequalities all over the world, but there are those who work and those who don't want to do a damned thing. We are fed up, let them leave us the hell alone!"

"We are Stronger Than the Melanesians"

His son cuts him off and tops him: "They talk about inequality. But you have to see the automobiles they have: a 504 with all the options! It was

magnificent, and today it's a wreck." Mr Marietti is not the only one to voice the harangue of the furious breeder. There are many who think as he does and say so, subtly of course, but they do not conceal it. The bushman does not intend to be dispossessed of the fruits of his labor, even though the land he farms was snatched from the Melanesians as long ago as 24 September 1853, the date of the seizure of this land--as large as Belgium--by France. A despoilment that is officially recognized, and not only by Jacques Roynette, the new high commissioner of the Republic in the territory. Racist talk against the Melanesians is often widespread. Racist? "We are all a little bit racist," admits Mr Laroque, while Jacques Lafleur, RPR deputy from the second district, Noumea, the so-called "white" district, talks about the "majority of the Melanesians who don't want to work."

These two racketeering figures, who are denounced by the pro-independence followers, have amassed a large fortune. "I am bound to be an exploiter, a nasty type who uses the Melanesians and oppresses people," Mr Lafleur says with a half smile. There are legends going around about me. I am rather rich, it's true, but not nearly so rich as they I am. I am not immensely rich. There are laborers and local people who vote for me. The people know me, I am part of their heritage. They don't call me by my whole name, but by my first name, Jacques."

Mr Laroque, the former P-DG [president and general manager] of the Ballande companies, a symbol of that syndicate economy which is deplored by the present high commissioner--all the more so because the profits are rarely reinvested locally--, a descendant of one of the oldest colonial families, rises up against the socialist government, "the defender of a feudal system in which the tribal chiefs are hereditary and have absolute power. The big chief," he says, "are nearly all inveterate drunks." A partisan of a departmentalization of New Caledonia, in favor of consulting the electorate before any statutory change, aware that for now the majority is on his side, this representative of a threatened establishment is not afraid to say, "If France decides in favor of independence, we are prepared to go into battle, hoping that it never happens. We are stronger than the Melanesians."

Whether they are descendants of exiled communards, of adventurers in search of a new Eldorado, of convicts or of rebel Kabyles, they all have a feeling that another injustice is being prepared as the "specter" of independence emerges. They are afraid that socialist France will betray them and they are forming ranks to make up the refusal front. They came in great numbers on Saturday morning to the Noumea Cathedral, which was too small to hold all of them, to honor the memory of Jacques Morice and Eric Garladon, who are dead in order that the law of the home country may remain strong.

"They are all the Same"

They are the first victims to announce the coming stormy times. First of all because nickel, the principal resource, is no longer selling, and because there are nearly 20,000 unemployed, most of them Canaques, out of 50,000 active persons in a population of 140,000. Next, because the pro-independence group be the majority sooner or later because of demographic evolution and because the events at Koinde are reinforcing it. The Melanesian is more and more aware of being a foreigner at home. He shifts the responsibility for the two dead men

to the high commissioner. Inscriptions have blossomed on the walls of Noumea: "Roymette: Two Dead" and "Barbou [translation unknown], assassin!"

Serious incidents also occurred on 6 January in Touho, on the East coast, after the police had been forced to intervene in a drunken quarrel. Several minutes later the crowd attacked the police station, causing serious damage. A sign that fools no one, indicating that French sovereignty is being questioned more and more on the island. According to Eloi Machoro, the territorial adviser and successor to Pierre Declercq as general secretary of the Caledonian Union (UC), the socialist government has been a disappointment. "The doors that were opened by Christian Nucci, the former high commissioner, are going to be closed again following the Koinde affair. All the injustice that was done to the tribes of Koinde and Ouipoin is legal, then," he says. "There are laws to protect the forests, there is no law to protect the Canaques from pollution. Isn't that legality colonial?"

Mr Machoro then brings out the text of two complaints filed by tribal chiefs on 2 April 1980 and 23 November 1982, demanding compensation: "Why did they never have any effect? People will no longer let themselves be pushed around. Violence is going to begin again for sure. We are sick and tired of hearing about the reparation of injustices. The socialist government had a great deal of credibility. Now it is ended! The men from the home country are all the same. In actual situations they continue to fight for the cause as seen by a good Frenchman, respect for legality, republican order, as they say. All this is just words, to cover injustice. In whom are you going to believe? We can no longer believe in anything except ourselves. We are going to organize in order to have what we want, that is, first to correct the injustices and then to be able to decide what we are to do in our country. We will have independence, before or after the date set, 1984. That depends on the capacity of our adversaries to resist our pressure. They will have to fall in line. We are going to win.

[Question] What type of pressure are you going to use?

[Answer] I can't tell you, it's a secret.

Mr Machoro laughs.

[Question] What is the meaning of the destabilization you talked about at your last congress?

Jean-Marie Tjibaou, the vice president of the UC and vice president of the government council, answers: "To destabilize the colonial government is first to occupy the land, then the institutions and that is a step forward. Our fight isn't stopping because of an apology for murder. Independence is a fight for dignity and life. For the Canaque nation to be great it must be built hatred. No one has ever talked about physical elimination. No one of us has the shamelessness to use the mortuaries to make statements."

Mr Tjibaou speaks deliberately and calmly. He tells how his grandmother was killed in 1917 when she was fleeing from the soldiers, carrying the child who was to become Mr Tjibaou's father on her shoulders. He was 6 years old. "Our

people have never thrown in the towel. Our history is one of French imperialism being here to take more and more possession of our heritage and deny the fact that there was an indigenous people." As he says this, Mr Tjibaou mimics a bird of prey by scraping the table with his fingernails.

So things could not be clearer. The Canaques want to be in command. For them, the internal autonomy statute which is being prepared must be only a step toward independence. They do not want this country to continue to be called "the France of the Pacific." The example, for them, is the New Hebrides, rechristened Vanuatu, the Fiji and Solomon Islands, which are masters of their destiny, even though independence is "only interdependence," as Mr Tjibaou admits. "After all, we are 2 million Melanesians, and here the legitimacy must be the legitimacy of the Canaque people. In France there is only one legitimacy."

"To Know how to Read History"

What is going to become of the white community? For, as emphasized by Jean Leques, president of the Territorial Assembly, "We are not disputing the Melanesian fact, but the European must not be crossed off." There are nearly 60,000 Europeans, nearly all of them established in the Noumea region. "Our independence is not against France," states Mr Machoro. "No one is anti-person. Those who want this country to be their country, they can do it, but not to send their money somewhere else, but rather to develop our territory." What, then, will those people do who are obstinately refusing a Canaque passport and swearing that they will only present the old papers? Confrontation is inevitable in this country where there are nearly 25,000 weapons and where "agents of international subversion are at work," as stated by Lionel Cherrier, a senator and member of the Federation for a New Caledonian Society (FNSC).

This engineer, who declares that he is "a Caledonian before he is a Frenchman," thinks that "this country's future is linked to our capacity to get along with each other. "People of good will," he says, "must regard the future with the Melanesians and not against them. The Melanesian must not feel that he is a foreigner in his own land." An idealist who is not taking into account the mounting antagonisms? Perhaps. That is the whole question. France will have to play the delicate role of arbitrator. "It is up to the government," Mr Tjibaou indicates, "to know how to read history and the evolution of consciousness in order to make a decision and outline clear prospects. I doubt that the tension will diminish. There is an ever increasing awareness of independence. No one can deny this phenomenon."

Jacques Roynette is not denying it, quite the contrary. To him, departmentalization is a bygone epoch. The drama of Koinde should make possible serious progress in recognizing Canaque sovereignty. There is no question of going ahead with a referendum "which is a purely theoretical view and would solve nothing." But, states Mr Roynette, "the government is naturally favorable toward demands tending toward internal emancipation." How will this be done? The government's room to maneuver is narrow for a definite and gradual break with the colonial fact. The risks of a new drama similar to the one in Algeria are obvious. It will not be easy to avoid them. Can the government do it?

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT--Papua New Guinea's Defense Minister Mr Epel Tito says Papua New Guinea does not want any more Australian-made Nomad aircraft because of what he calls their appalling safety record. Australia has given the Papua New Guinea defense force five Nomads under a defense cooperation program but two of them have crashed. One of the Nomads crashed late in 1981 killing two pilots. Papua New Guinea's Foreign Minister Mr Namaliu narrowly escaped death when the second Nomad crashed shortly after takeoff last Friday. Mr Tito said Papua New Guinea is considering a loan proposal from Israel under which it will buy Israeli Army aircraft. [Text] [BK011221 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Feb 83]

CSO: 4200/339

PDP ASSAILS PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT ORDER

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 5 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Pilipino Democratic Party yesterday denounced as "illegal and unconstitutional" the issuance of Presidential Commitment Order (PCO) against its leaders even as it questioned the authenticity of the presidential order.

Speaking for the PDP, Antonio Cuenco, regional party chairman, assailed the authority of President Marcos to issue commitment orders "while at the same time pronouncing to the whole world that his regime is adhering to democratic processes."

Cuenco charged the Marcos regime for harassing if not silencing the legitimate opposition by using the dreadful instrument such as the PCO.

"The PCO is a tool of repression--the presidential license to crush the human rights of the people in the convenient pretext of national order and safety," the PDP leader declared.

The PCO is so repugnant and violative of the Constitution and it has no place in a country which professes to be democratic and allegedly respects the human rights of its citizens, Cuenco said.

Meanwhile, the PDP legal staff is poised to file a suit before the Supreme Court questioning the legality and constitutionality of the presidential order. Cuenco, who also led the defense panel of the accused PDP leaders, said they are going to elevate the matter to the tribunal to contest the authority of Marcos in "interfering with judicial processes."

In the case of Holganza et al, Cuenco said that at the time President Marcos issued the PCO there was already an existing order of arrest issued by the court, thereby rendering the PCO moot and academic and superfluous.

He said the PCO has become irrelevant since the suspects were already detained pursuant to a judicial order. "The very purpose of a PCO is to detain a person," he added.

Cuenco questioned the authenticity of the PCO. He said the prosecution in the hearing for the motion for bail the other day failed to produce the original copy of the PCO. The one presented was just a mere xerox copy.

"Under the best evidence rule the original copy of a document should always be the one presented," he added.

The military, he said, in securing the PCO, might have misled President Marcos into believing that the persons sought to be detained are still at large.

CSO: 4200/306

ALIEN INVESTMENTS REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Jan 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

FOREIGN investments reached record levels for the third straight year in 1982 with a total of P2.2 billion.

Last year's total investments approved by the Board of Investments reached P1.9 billion or 9.6 percent higher than the 1981 figure which was also a record.

Americans accounted for the heaviest investments last year amounting to P1 billion.

In 1980, foreign equity investments amounted to P1.7 billion, surpassing the combined total for the previous three years of P761.8 million in 1979, P584.4 billion in 1978, and P338 million in 1977.

TRADE and Industry Minister Roberto V. Ongpin, concurrent Board of Investments chairman, said that last year's level of foreign equity investments was the highest since 1968 when the BOI was organized.

Ongpin said the figures are significant because they indicate the growing confidence of investors in the stability and in the potential of the Philippine economy despite prevailing economic difficulties worldwide.

Foreign investors poured P1.4 billion in wholly-owned enterprises and P738.1 billion in joint ventures with Filipinos.

THE OTHER top 1982 foreign investors were from Nauru with P516 million; Great Britain with P121.2 million; Germany with P120.4 million; Japan with P117.1 million, and the Netherlands with P79.6 million.

There were 44 countries whose citizens invested in the Philippines last year, compared with 34 in 1981. Investments from Honduras, Netherlands Antilles, Panama and United Arab Emirates were made here for the first time last year.

BOI-approved local equity investments also came in strong last year with P4.5 billion, a 28.6 percent leap from the P3.5 billion in 1981.

THE TOP five individual foreign investments approved last year were:

- Construction of the country's biggest and tallest building in Makati by the Republic of Nauru with P516 million.

- Expansion of the capacity of NS Electronics Philippines, Inc. by National Semiconductor Corp. of US with P325.7 million.

- Equity buildup of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of the Philippines by PepsiCo Inc. of US with P279.5 million.

- Expansion of the capacity of Intel Philippines Inc. by Intel Corp. of US with P108.4 million.

- Establishment of the fatty alcohol plant of United Coconut Chemicals Inc. by Lurgi Umwelt GmbH of Germany with P108 million.

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THE PHILIPPINES has a large pool of trained English-speaking manpower, adequate and growing local market, stable business environment, and abundant natural resources.

The government has adopted new moves to intensify further its investment promotions program.

These are the granting of permanent resident visa to foreign investors that invest at least US \$200,000 in the country; the establishment of a one-stop shop within BOI to facilitate investment applications of foreigners; and the creation of more export processing zones.

The government is also continuing to improve transportation and communication facilities, industrial relations, and security while cutting down red tape.

CSO: 4200/306

CONSTABULARY OFFICER, 5 OTHERS DIE IN AMBUSHES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Jan 83 p 2

[Text]

A PC officer and five other troopers were killed in two separate ambushes by dissidents Sunday and Tuesday in Abra and Leyte, military authorities reported yesterday.

Lt. Col. Ruperto Legarda, newly-designated commander of the 55th PC battalion, was killed Tuesday when his group was ambushed by a New People's Army band in barangay Pancho Villa, Sogod, Southern Leyte. Three of his men were also killed and two others wounded.

According to a report from the 55th PC battalion headquarters based in Sogod, Legarda and his men were bound for Tacloban City when ambushed at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday upon reaching the vicinity of barangay Pancho Villa, some four kilometers from the town proper.

THE REPORT said the ambushers numbered about 50, mostly armed with high-powered firearms.

Killed aside from Legarda were Sergeants Danilo Mendoza and Antonio Baylon and Constable M. Latuya. Wounded were C2Cs Wilfredo Tesoro and Mario Mendoza.

The ambushers also took the firearms of the victims — three M-16 armalite rifles, one caliber .45 pistol, one caliber .38 revolver, one field radio set and several bullets.

IN ABRA, a PC sergeant and member of the Civilian Home Defense Force were killed and their four companions wounded in an ambush Sunday night by the NPA in Lacub, Abra.

Brig. Gen. Victorino T. Azada, PC-INP Northern Luzon commander, said the victims were members of a nine-man foot patrol sent to track down dissidents in the outskirts of that town.

Azada identified the fatalities as T/Sgt. Henry Agaullo of the Abra PC command and Fernando Pe Benito, a Civilian Home Defense Force member of Lacub.

Wounded were Cpl. Ernesto Bernal, Pvt. Mario Eduarte and Jacinto Manambo and Sabemano Manuel, both members of the CHDF of Lacub.

A PC report said the lawmen exchanged fire for six hours with 50 NPA men until they retreated under cover of darkness.

CSO: 4200/306

NEW LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SUGAR ASSURED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Jan 83 p 10

[Text]

BACOLOD CITY - The Philippine Sugar Commission (Phil-sucom) Tuesday said it is confident that the Philippines would be able to enter into nother four-year contract for its sugar in the world market.

Phil-sucom Chairman Roberto S. Benedicto, however, said the European Economic Community (EEC) would be playing a vital role in the Philippines' bid for another four-year contract.

Benedicto said it is imperative that the EEC be convinced to go along with the International Sugar Agreement (ISA) which calls for a uniform price for sugar.

The EEC had been admonished by sugar producing countries for dumping its beet sugar surplus in the world market at a cheaper price which upset the marketing aspect of the commodity.

Benedicto said the EEC's practice of dumping its sugar surplus will be discussed during the ISO conference in May in Geneva to be attended by representatives from the European Community.

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ON THE laying of groundwork for another four-year contract, Benedicto said "this is not a thing that we can develop in two months, seven months or even one year. We are aware of the 1984 deadline and also that if we are to continue this agreement we must work early."

Benedicto paid tribute to President Marcos for his decision to enter into the contract.

Because of the four-year contract (1981-1984), 1982 had been a good year for the Philippine sugar mainly because the country has been able to retain a good price of sugar in the world market.

While the Philippines enjoyed a good year for its sugar, other sugar producing countries suffered because they were not able to negotiate, according to Benedicto.

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HE ADDED that because of the four-year contract, the National Sugar Trading Corp. was able to pay sugar producers P11.5 billion in differentials between 1981 and 1983.

"Never in the history of the sugar industry in Negros have this amount in sugar differentials been distributed to sugar producers," he said.

Likewise, with regards to this four-year contract, no other country in the world has done the same thing for its sugar industry.

However, Benedicto enjoined Negrenses to think with compassion of other industries, like copper and coconut, which did not enjoy the same status as the sugar industry.

Describing the four-year contract as advantageous to the entire sugar industry, Benedicto expressed hopes that Phil-sucom will "reach a level in the minds of the people that we have negotiated to their welfare." (PNA)

RAIDERS HIT TOWN, DISARM POLICE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 13 Jan 83 p 1

[Article by Ped Velasco]

[Text]

TAGUM, Davao del Norte, Jan. 12 — The entire police force of Mabini town here and the private security force of a logging firm were disarmed after about 200 heavily armed men believed to be New People's Army men attacked the town at about 9 a.m. today, a report reaching the office of the governor here said.

Attacked by the NPAs were the 437th PC company headquarters in Labinigan, the municipal hall of Mabini, the Mabini police headquarters, and the Manuel Nieto Corp. (Manicor), a logging firm.

Two other groups of 50 NPAs each reportedly blocked approaches to the town.

PC T/Sgt. Pedro Ugale, Jr. was slightly injured in the fight at the PC headquarters. An NPA guerrilla was reportedly killed. His body was taken by his companions.

The NPAs subdued the entire Mabini police force and ransacked their headquarters beside the municipal building. They ran off with assorted high-powered firearms, ammunition, and four typewriters.

Also disarmed by the raiders were the security personnel of Manicor. The NPAs took assorted medicine.

Sgt. Filomeno Embuscado, INP station commander of Bantukan town, was within the municipal hall area on court duty at the time of the attack. The NPAs disarmed Embuscado's two police escorts of their Armalite rifles.

The rebels reportedly rode on seven vehicles, including a logging truck.

PC troopers led by Col. Milton S. Tiburcio, PC-INP commander here, pursued the attackers who withdrew toward a forested mountain range in the area.

UNPROMISING FUTURE FOR ORDINARY WORKERS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 6 Jan 83 p 3

[Article by Eddie R. Gandionco, business editor-consultant, under the heading "Business and Industry"]

[Text] Most economists interviewed by this column predict that the nation's economic growth in the first half of 1983 will remain at a sluggish 2.5% to 3%, rising to 4% in the second half. This will make the rate for the whole year around 3.5% slightly less than the 6% target set by government. The gloomy economic forecast is borne out by the composite indices of the Central Bank, NEDA, and the MTI. The index is a barometer of the economy's performance. As one government economist told this writer "Although the current recession is not very serious its duration is much longer." However, government forecasts of the economy is too over-optimistic. [as published]

In a survey made by this column among leading manufacturers in Metro Manila on plant capacity rate, the finding showed with the exception of drug and medicines that the equipment utilization rate of the manufacturers surveyed dropped to 60% because of the substantial decline of orders. And profits dipped. The manufacturers surveyed are not optimistic about business this year. And this goes with exports too, the locomotive of the economy. It seems that manufacturers lacked confidence in business prospects in 1983.

The year 1983 will also be a bad year for domestic consumption because wage hikes are expected to be low or nil in some industries. Because wages cannot keep up with the rise in consumer prices, the rate of private consumption will fall in the first half. The future does not look promising for the ordinary workers and employees, both in the public and private sectors. However, government economists believe that inflation will not rise in 1983; that the rate of inflation will stabilize. The small increase of wages, if any, in 1983 will help improve the competitiveness of local export product. The recent government moves and measures is in some way geared toward putting the economy in a position to take advantage of the forthcoming upturn in the world economy, especially the United States, which is expected in the second half of 1983. [as published]

CSO: 4200/306

PROTEST HARASSMENT OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 7 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Manila--The Women Writers in Media Now (WOMEN) and College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) have registered strong protest against harassment of the media which has escalated to alarming proportions.

The two writers' groups complained that thus far five women writers were individually summoned by the National Intelligence Board (NIB) to closed door dialogues "shed light on confidential matters."

They were questioned on their perception of press freedom as it relates to national security, among others by 14 intelligence officials.

The WOMEN and CEGP strongly believed that this is a form of harassment which constitutes an infringement on our constitutional right of press freedom.

The two writers' group deplored the fact that the invitations to appear before the panel carried the grave threat that "failure to appear on the expected date and place shall be considered as a waiver of your right and this committee will be constrained to proceed in accordance with law." What the NIB chose to call "dialogues" assumed the character of an inquisition.

What is alarming is that the questions asked were about the published articles of these writers--questions which the WOMEN and CEGP feel infringe on their rights as writers, specifically, the right to choose their subject, the right to protect their sources and the right to present their facts in the style they deem appropriate to the subject.

These recent activities of the military establishments tend to create an atmosphere of fear among writers in this country and gravely compromise the principle of press freedom.

The writers, who have so far been interrogated are the following: Domini Torrevillas Suarez, editor of BULLETIN PANORAMA; Ma. Ceres Doyo, freelance writer; Lorna Kalaw Tirol, BULLETIN PANORAMA; JoAnn Q. Malipon, freelance writer, and Arlene Babst, columnist of BULLETIN TODAY.

CSO: 4200/306

BRIEFS

OIL PROCESSING AGREEMENT--Singapore Petroleum Company [SPC] and the Malaysian state-owned company Petronas have signed an agreement under which the SPC will process 18,000 barrels of crude oil a day for Petronas this year. Under a separate accord, SPC will buy 4,000 barrels a day of aviation jet fuel and diesel oil from Petronas, also for 1 year. SPC has been processing Petronas oil for 4 years. The agreement was signed this morning by representatives of the two companies. [BK190921 Singapore Democratic Service in English 11 GMT [as printed] 17 Jan 83 BK]

CSO: 4200/342

MANUEVERING FOR HOUSE SESSION REPORTED

BK300337 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 29 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Leader of Siam Democracy Party Col Phon Roengprasoetrit yesterday submitted a list of signatures of MP's to parliament seeking a special house session to amend the constitution, claiming to have collected 187 signatures--but a highly-informed parliamentary sources said only 140 of them were valid.

The minimum number of signatures required is 176.

The source in the house said that the list contained 193 signatures but only 140 of them were valid.

There were contradictory reports last night over whether the minimum number of signatures had been obtained. Parliament President ACM Harin Hongsakul, who received the list from parliamentary Secretary General Maj Gen Krawi Suthat Na Aytthaya who had in return been handed the names by Col Phnom, would not comment on the reported "technical problems." But a well-informed source who checked the list told THE NATION: "There were several duplications of signatures on the list." He cited the triple signatures of Gen Kriangsak Chamanan who had already resigned as an MP before entering monkhood more than two weeks ago.

"Some of the signatures were also found to be different from the original ones at parliament," the source said. Informed sources, meanwhile, said that those seeking amendments to the constitution had informed political parties joining the move that they would replace the present 225 senators with new representatives appointed from various walks of life to support the prime minister. "Since the new elections would not bring in a major party to support the government, a newly-appointed Senate would be vital. And if the present senators are replaced they would not be accused of trying to fight for their own powers," the sources said.

The sources added that the ongoing negotiations also centre on retaining the powers of the Senate which would go hand in hand with the prime minister as the main supporters of government stability. "We have yet to agree on details on how much power would be given to the senators," the sources said.

The negotiations also concentrate on the new voting system. Chat Thai was said to have demanded team-candidacy with multiple constituencies in the new elections.

The point was raised by Deputy Premier Praman Adireksan when he held talks yesterday afternoon with a senior general serving as the mediator.

Sources said there were no senators among the lawmakers who signed the motion seeking amendments to the constitution and election law.

Phon claimed that some senators had already signed the motion. He also said that leaders of political parties which supported the motion will meet soon to discuss details of the amendment of the constitution and election law.

Major General Krawi, meanwhile, said it would take parliament three days to scrutinize the matter before submitting the motion to His Majesty the King for a royal decree to declare the House open. Officials of the House were in the process of examining the list, he said.

However, Harin said yesterday that there were "some problems" with the motion. He said he could not immediately determine whether the motion was valid as he had yet to examine the signatures in details. But he said there were duplications in some of the signatures, and the names of some of the ex-MP's, including Kriangsak and Nao Phruttithammakun, who had resigned, also appeared in the list.

According to parliamentary regulations, the motion had to be submitted to His Majesty the King within three days after it was received.

MP Prem Malakun (SDP), another prime mover for an extraordinary House session, said yesterday that four MP's who had signed the motion later requested their signatures to be withdrawn. But Col Phon claimed that another three MP's subsequently added their signatures to the list to offset the missing signatures.

An informed source in the Senate said that at least eight senators had signed the motion. They were identified as Prasit Kanchanawat, Dr Bunsom Martin, Charubut Ruangsuwan, Sirichai Bunlakun, Maj Gen Saritwong Wonghuaithong, Sanon Saisawang, Suchat Howatthanakun and Plengsak Prakatphesat.

Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet disclosed last night that it had been agreed earlier among political parties supporting the move that the signatures would be submitted on Monday. "I don't know why Col Phon decided to hand the list in today (Friday)," Samak said.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon on Thursday night summoned Praman, also Chat Thai leader, to his residence for consultations, obviously to persuade Chat Thai to join in the move to convene a special parliamentary session.

Reporters spotted Praman leaving the premier's house slightly after 9 p.m., more than one hour after he entered the residence.

Siam Democracy leader Col Phon said he also met Praman the same evening. Sources said that Praman agreed to comply with the prime minister's request. Chat Thai has about 40-50 MP's under its banner. Colonel Phon had earlier claimed he had

obtained 156 signatures from MP's. If Chat Thai joined the move, the total number of supporting signatures would exceed the required minimum. Chat Thai leader Praman told reporters at a social function at Erawan Hotel at about 8 p.m. that his party had not decided conclusively to join the move to reconvene the House session. "I haven't submitted the list of the signatures of my party members to anybody. We have to consider point by point the proposed amendments," he told reporters.

"We must know which parts would be amended before we hand over the list of signatures--or else there might be chaotic bickering when the House session is convened," he said. Praman admitted having met Gen Prem at the premier's Sisao Thewlot residence Thursday evening. "The prime minister didn't say much about the proposed constitution amendments," the Chat Thai leader said, but he would not disclose details of his conversation with the premier.

Praman asked reporters what SAP leader M. R. Khukrit Pramot had said earlier in the evening. Asked whether he would meet Col Phon over the weekend to discuss the issue, Praman said: "No. I have to go to the provinces."

Asked specifically for Chat Thai's position on the matter, Praman said: "We will make up our mind only after we have held talks with other parties. For now, we have to wait and see."

Chat Thai Secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-Acha said he had only heard rumours about Chat Thai having decided to join the move. "That came as a surprise to me since the list of the signatures of my party's MP's are with me. Up to now, I haven't heard from the party leader to hand it over to anybody," Banhan said.

Earlier in the day, Chat Thai MP from Phitseanulok, Prathuang Wishanpricha, said he had met Praman earlier yesterday at the government house and was told by his party leader that the special house session would definitely be convened. "As to what would be amended in the constitution is being negotiated," the MP said. Prathuang said he had been told the evening before by another Chat Thai MP, Bunsong Somchai of Prachirburi, that at a wedding party at the Ambassador Hotel, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Athit Kamlang-Ek and assistant police chief, Police Lt Gen Banthoeng Kampanasaengyakon, had disclosed that the House would be convened.

Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, assistant army chief-of-staff for operations, was greeted by newsmen at the government house at around noon yesterday. When asked by reporters about the latest political developments, Lt Gen Chaowalit waved his hands and said: "Please excuse me. I can't talk about anything. There are still a lot of problems on the borders."

Asked what song he was singing yesterday, Lt Gen Chaowalit refused to comment. He was last week quoted as saying that he was singing "Without us, you would feel it," apparently referring to the politicians' refusal to join the army to reconvene parliament.

Social Action Party Leader M. R. Khukrit Pramot said that it would be good to have a special House session. "Since there is tension in the political field at the moment, convening of a special session would help defuse the situation." Teh SAP leader also said that if the election system was to be amended to be on the basis of divided constituencies, "that would also be good because we are ready for any system." But he said he wouldn't comment on the proposed change to allow government officials to be political appointees.

CSO: 4200/343

COALITION TO DISCUSS CHARTER AMENDMENTS

BK030205 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] Political parties in the coalition are to meet today to discuss what constitutional amendments are needed before the special sitting starts, possibly next Thursday.

The meeting, due to be held in the "Green Room" at Government House, was planned by Deputy Prime Minister Maj-Gen Praman Adireksan who also chairs the Parliamentary Coordinating Committee.

The parties are expected to express their views on the amendment, working towards a compromise which would prevent any unnecessary debate in parliament.

The meeting is believed to be in response to a request by several MP's, senators and military men that the coalition parties decide on the amendments before parliament reopens.

The group, including Siam Democratic Party leader Col Phon Roengprasoetwit, Chat Thai Party secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-Acha, Senator Chan Manutham (who is also a minister of the prime minister's office) and a close aide of army assistant Chief of Staff Maj-Gen Chaowalit Yongchaiyut--Col Rawi Wanphen, met on Tuesday and later appointed Col Phon to submit its amendment proposal to the government.

The proposal supports the multiple constituency voting system and the right of government officials to hold ministerial posts in the cabinet. It also wants the Senate to hold certain voting rights for national budget bills, no-confidence motions and royal decrees.

The proposal differs slightly from one being lobbied by a military faction which calls for the appointment of new senators after April 21 to replace the present Senate.

A Social Action Party source disclosed yesterday that Maj-Gen Chaowalit met SAP [Social Action Party] leader M. R. Khukrit Pramot at his Soi Suan Phlu home on Tuesday, presumably to seek his support for the military-sponsored proposal.

M. R. Khukrit admitted on Tuesday that a number of military men had visited him that day, but for personal reasons.

Yesterday morning, Maj-Gen Praman met with House Speaker Buntheng Thongsawat to work on the upcoming session's agenda.

According to Buntheng, three issues needed urgent parliamentary attention. They were royal tax decrees already in effect but lacking parliament's approval.

The amendments motion was expected to be made once the session began and the required 101 signatures (or one-third of the House of Representatives) were produced.

Parliamentary President ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Harin Hongsakun said yesterday he expected the special session to start on February 10.

In related developments: Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Sombun Chuaphibun said yesterday the navy would listen to the majority on what constitutional amendments were needed.

He denied that the navy was in conflict with the army on the amendments issue, saying there was nothing wrong with having a difference of opinion and that a compromise could be reached.

Democrat Party leader Phichai Rattakun said he had assigned an MP to coordinate with the other coalition members over the amendments.

Phichai declined to name the MP, only saying that Justice Minister Marut Bunnak has been given charge of the party's amendment draft.

Admitting that he had been approached by some coalition members and military men on the proposed amendments, Phichai said he personally favoured the multiple constituency voting system but opposed extending the Senate's term.

Two MP's have submitted a petition to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, calling on the government to arrange for a live radio broadcast of the parliamentary debate.

MP's Thiraphan Phetsuwan, of Chumphon and Watsana Buntaphantanti of Krabi, said the public had a right to first-hand information regarding the whole amendment process and requested the public relations department to arrange for the live broadcast.

CSO: 4200/345

ADVISER DISCUSSES MOVES ON PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

BK310201 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jan 83 p 2

[Text] A member of the prime minister's advisory council last night appealed to the three partners in the government coalition to decide whether parliament should reconvene to amend some provisional clauses in the constitution.

Professor Dr Kramon Thongthammachat, said that as Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon had confirmed that the government would not initiate the move for a special sitting it was up to the coalition partners--the Social Action, Chat Thai and Democrat parties--to make a final decision on the issue.

The special sitting is being sought by some MPs and senators, including certain pressure groups, to amend provisional sections of the constitution dealing with election systems, the powers of the senate and the appointment of civil servants to political positions.

Dr Kramon, who also lectures in political science at Chulalongkorn University, said General Prem's stand meant that if the three partners wished to join forces on the issue they would have to do so as parties and not in the name of the government.

Although General Prem had said on many occasions that the government would not take any initiative to reconvene parliament, it would not object to the attempt to secure the 176 MPs signatures required to effect the move.

"The premier clearly said during cabinet meetings that opposition MPs and those of the three partners should initiate the move themselves, not the government," Dr Kramon said.

"But his statements have been misinterpreted by the mass media (as meaning) that the government will neither open parliament nor amend the constitution," he said.

Dr Kramon said that even coalition partners had told the press that the government would not allow parliament to reconvene and had, therefore, contributed to the political tensions plaguing the country.

The advisory council to the prime minister had four months ago proposed that parliament be dissolved in a move aimed at restoring the multi-constituency, candidate voting system used in the 1979 general elections.

Dr Kramon said that the proposal then was aimed at protecting the interests of political parties and preventing the present political crisis.

However, he said that the coalition partners rejected the proposal.

"Some even viewed our attempt as being dictatorial," Dr Kramon said, adding that the dissolution of the house is not a dictatorial act.

"We dissolved the house in order to pave the way for an early election; every democratic country does this when faced with a political crisis," he explained.

The government had also once sponsored a bill to change the election system, but the bid failed because of a lack of support from MPs and senators, Dr Kramon said.

He said that for the time being the advisory council would not propose any new "formula" for the constitutional amendments, adding that it would monitor any decision which may be taken by the coalition partners.

He said that it was too late to adopt the old proposal that parliament be dissolved.

Parliament could not be dissolved now because there is not enough time, Dr Kramon said, adding that it must be done 90 days before the provisional clauses expire on April 21.

He said that if parliament was dissolved now, the single-constituency, party voting system would apply in the general election scheduled for June 12.

CSO: 4200/345

PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT DISCUSSES SIGNATURE LIST

BK311058 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Interview given 31 January by Air Chief Marshal Harin Hongsakun, president of the Parliament, at the national assembly building--recorded]

[Text] [Harin] The signature list was submitted to the Parliament secretary at 1645 on 28 January. The list was later handed to me after officials found some irregularities. I have rechecked the list thoroughly. There were a total of 193 signatures of MP's, and all of them are members of the House of Representatives. However, three MP's whose signatures appear on the list sent me letters to delete their names from the list. Also, four signatures belong to those whose membership in the House has already expired due to resignations. Three MP's signed the list four times. Eight signed the list three times, and 21 signed twice. Fifth-three signatures were [words indistinct] 46 duplications, 3 withdrawals and 4 invalid due to resignations. Only 140 signatures were valid, which is less than one-third of the total number of members of the houses. Article 119 of the Constitution requires one-third of the signatures of the members of the two houses for the Parliament to seek royal permission to hold a session. The Parliament secretary has informed the submitter of the irregularities.

[Question] Can more signatures be added to the list?

[Answer] They cannot just simply add more signatures here. The list has been stamped as a document of the parliament. After the Parliament has found it to be invalid, the issue must end there. They cannot ask to have the list back to add more signatures. However, a request for the opening of a special session can be made at any time if enough signatures are gathered in accordance with the Constitution.

[Question] Does it mean they will have to start all over again?

[Answer] Yes, they will have to do that.

[Question] Have you met with Col Phon Roengprasoetwit to inform him about this matter?

[Answer] No, I have not met him because I am not required to inform him personally. Anyone who wants to open a special session must contact the Parliament secretary general, who will accept and register the motion. The secretary general will inform me on whether the motion is valid or not. If the motion is valid, it will be submitted to his majesty the king in accordance with Article 119.

[Question] Do you think that there is enough time to pass major laws?

[Answer] This depends on those who request the session. They should try to reach agreement outside the Parliament on what to do to prevent wasting time and long debates. We are merely trying to handle things in accordance with the law and regulations, we are not taking sides with any party.

CSO: 4207/73

EDITORIAL BEMOANS SIHANOUK SEAT AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT

BK310249 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 31 Jan 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Last Gasp of Non-aligned Movement"]

[Text] The original idea of the non-aligned movement, at the time of the cold war, was a powerful one and at that time, perhaps even more so now, a voice of reason and justice was badly needed. With an arms race among the superpowers and a threat of nuclear catastrophe hanging over the world, a third voice urging the reduction of tensions and the shedding of light on a jungle of missiles would be most welcome. But, alas, the original idea never matured. In short, the non-aligned movement became even more impotent than the UN General Assembly.

The salvaging of the movement and giving it the respect and the voice deserved is not even remotely possible in non-aligned summit which is scheduled in March in New Delhi. We are primarily referring to the refusal to invite President Norodom Sihanouk by India which will be chairman of the summit. What became a complete travesty in Havana during the previous summit could just become worse and the movement could just wither away not because the idea in which it was based has lost its meaning but because the whole movement has been perverted. Burma is the only country which read the signs rightly in Havana and backed out saying that the movement is no more non-aligned.

Other countries have felt the same way but they vainly hope that the movement can be salvaged. We, for one, would agree with Burma. India, for instance, had a good excuse not to invite Sihanouk. She could have said that she herself recognizes the Heng Samrin regime and would invite Democratic Kampuchea, recognized by the UN, only if preliminary meetings indicated that the members wished one of its original members, Kampuchea represented by Sihanouk seated. But unfortunately she fell back on the silly idea of the consensus of the Havana summit as if a consensus could be reached among nearly 100 countries. (The number of members is said to be 97 but one is never sure.) What was reached in Havana was not a consensus but a compromise--worse, the acceptance of a lesser evil.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, like Caesar's wife, wants to be above suspicion and so thought it easier to fall back on 'consensus' and the Havana formula. Unfortunately, by deduction, this only goes to show that India colluded with Cuba in stage-managing the show--to repeat, 'show'--and took part in the efforts to seat Heng Samrin.

When about 100 countries meet, of every possible geographic location, varying cultures and politically representing every colour of the spectrum, it would be impossible for them to agree on the time of the day because somebody is bound to say that if it is calculated from Greenwich Mean Time, it would be an imperialist plot. But more seriously, how is that August grouping supposed to obtain a consensus about the war between Iraq and Iran, both of whom are members? And if there is a real consensus between [as published] 97 countries, would the emerging ideas be worth the time and money spent by the various leaders?

In Havana, the summit became a forum for the denunciation of the United States repeatedly. And in all the reports we have read about it, there was not one sentence spoken against the other superpower except by vague references by two countries. If the heads of government of the three ASEAN members of the non-aligned grouping attend the meeting, the summit will have to face the withering rhetoric of Lee Kuan Yew, the cold logic of Suharto and the passionate remonstrances of Mohammad Mahathir.

If ultimately Prince Sihanouk is invited to address the meeting, it will not be a victory for anybody since he has a right [*right in italics*] to be there. If he is not, it will just be another proof that Burma was right and the cancerous cells operating within the movement will devour the original idea and the travesty of Havana will become the tragedy of New Delhi.

CSO: 4200/343

RTA FACTION LOBBYING FOR CHARTER CHANGES

BK020223 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] A certain faction in the military is lobbying for its version of changes in the constitution as officials wait for the royal command from His Majesty the King to open an extraordinary session of parliament, expected at the end of next week.

An authoritative military source told the BANGKOK POST that approaches have been made to various political parties in the hope that they will support the faction's proposed amendments.

The faction wants:

- the single constituency-party electoral system to be replaced with the multiple constituency system with votes for a team of candidates not comprising more than three people;
- the retention of senators' powers; and
- the right of government officials to hold ministerial posts in the cabinet.

The source said, however, that this military group wants new senators to be appointed after April 21 when all senate members resign following the expiration of a provisional clause in the constitution.

The new senators would be selected from various professional groups but representatives of each group would not take up more than five percent of senate seats. Under the faction's plan, senators would be appointed for four years--a term equal to that of MPs, the source said.

He refused to name those in the faction but said that the most active legislators who lobbied for signatures to support the move to reopen parliament were those who belonged to the army.

The faction is expected to invite party leaders to a meeting to exchange views and ask for support for their amendment proposals.

Parliamentary president, ACM [air chief marshal] Harin Hongsakun, said yesterday that he had forwarded the motion of the reopening of parliament to the royal household bureau so that His Majesty the King could give the royal command to convene a special sitting.

Once the royal command was received, legislators would be informed three days in advance of the opening which would have to be made within the 10 days following the royal command, he said.

He said the special sitting would focus on the deliberation of various bills still pending in the parliament, "but the sitting could switch to the constitution amendment if MPs propose a motion toward such an effect."

ACM Harin revealed that he had suggested to a number of MP's that they agree in advance on how they want to amend the constitution, thereby avoiding direct clashes and unnecessary debate in parliament.

Asked to elaborate on his comment that he opposed the retention of the senate's powers, ACM Harin said that he was just giving his personal opinion which would not effect any moves to amend the constitution.

"I will be neutral and I have no problem in maintaining justice in parliament," he said.

House Speaker Buntheng Thongsawat yesterday agreed with ACM Harin that MP's should decide in advance on what they want to change in the constitution.

"Once the royal command is passed for the opening of parliament, we will have to prepare all the regulations and the agenda. All should be ready for the special session at the end of next week," Mr Buntheng said.

He said that once the constitution amendment was passed, a general election should take place immediately, probably in April or May at the latest.

"There should not be any need to prolong it until June because by then it will be the rainy season which will make it difficult for the election," he said.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon also urged all parties to consult each other in order to preserve the public's interests. He said that he welcomed the special parliamentary session because "everything then can be discussed in a democratic manner in parliament."

General Prem said that the government would not call a meeting among political parties in his coalition, saying that the government's duty was only to follow the outcome of the amendment and that each coalition party would decide by itself what it wanted.

He said he also would not call a meeting among senators because they did not belong to the government, but "belonged to several governments."

Armed Forces Supreme Commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon said, meanwhile, that the senators were likely to meet among themselves but this would be done only when it was made clear on what was to be amended in the constitution. He refused to comment on whether the senate's powers should be retained.

EDITORIAL SAYS MILITARY MUST BE LISTENED TO ON CONSTITUTION

BK310146 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jan 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Preventing the Worst Alternative"]

[Text] As we noted a couple of weeks ago, the movement to recall parliament for a special session to discuss possible amendments to our constitution is virtually unstoppable. Forces have been at work for some time now, and they have assumed unstoppable momentum. The inertia which has been built up in recent months, and especially during the past several weeks, have made such a special session of parliament inevitable. The time since we noted this, earlier this month, has been filled with discussions among the various concerned individuals and groups. It also has been filled with rumours, a couple of unneeded demonstrations and much silly talk and speculation on the part of the uninformed. The old rule prevailed: Those who talked didn't know; those who knew didn't talk.

It now appears more clear than ever that parliament will indeed be called back into session. The heartening point about this is that the recall of the National Assembly and the Senate now will occur with the backing of all interested groups. There are still political differences of opinion. There are those who favour this and oppose that amendment proposal. But there is a general feeling among members of parliament and senators alike that it is time to sit down to discuss those differences. And the obvious place to do that--the only acceptable place to do that--is in the constitutionally approved forum, the parliament.

Our politicians have come to realize that they cannot still the voices of Thai citizens who have a perfect right to express opinions on the running of a country which belongs to each and every Thai citizen. Some of the less thoughtful have tried to make this some sort of dispute between "the military" and Thai citizens. They have thought again and reached the correct conclusion: "The military" is made up of Thai citizens who have a duty--yes, a duty--to speak, and a right to be heard, on matters of national concern. Surely this is clear to all those who favour democracy for Thailand.

Barring the most unpredictable of occurrences, parliament now will meet in a full, special session. Its members will discuss possible changes to the constitution. It seems inevitable that some changes will be made, promulgated and put into

effect before the scheduled June elections. As reported on our news pages for the past several days, informal talks have already been held on just what changes will be made. In other words, consensus politics is already at work, even before the recall of parliament.

This is as it should be. Even the die-hard among our politicians have realised that members of the military must be listened to and that their opinions must be taken into account. The alternative is continuing chaos, rafts of rumours and quite possibly the institution of those military "exercises," as an officer euphemistically put it. It is an alternative which, so far as we can tell, none of our citizens desire. So parliament is going to do what it is supposed to do. It is going to meet, and prevent that worse alternative to reasoned discussion and compromise.

CSO: 4200/345

KHUKRIT URGES PREM TO RECONVENE PARLIAMENT

BK300445 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Jan 83 p 1

[Article by Banyat Thatsaniyawet]

[Text] Social Action Party leader M. R. Khukrit Pramot proposed yesterday that Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon take the initiative to reconvene parliament to ease the political tension gripping the country.

In an exclusive interview with the BANGKOK POST, he explained that under the constitution, the prime minister is empowered to reconvene parliament and therefore there would be no need for anyone to gather 176 MPs' signatures to have an extraordinary session. "It is the duty of the government to preserve peace and order in the country. If it feels that the reconvening of parliament would bring a halt to conflicts and end the present confusion, the prime minister should go ahead and order an extraordinary session of parliament. He should not wait for any move by the MPs on this matter," the former premier said.

Since the SAP had previously decided against the reconvening of parliament, the party's MP's would not sign the petition for the special session, M. R. Khukrit pointed out. When the session is held, the party will hold a meeting to consider proposed amendments to the constitution. The SAP "does not object to constitutional amendments but we did not like the way pressure was used through the mass media," he said.

He told the POST that the SAP had itself twice appealed--and lost--for a change in the electoral system, with the provinces being divided into several constituencies and for votes to be cast for individual candidates. The system prescribed under the constitution for the scheduled June elections provides for provincewide constituencies with voting for the whole team of a political party's candidates. "Our party is ready for the elections no matter what system is finally decided upon," M. R. Khukrit added.

Regarding the proposed retention of the current powers of the Senate, he said that he had no objection, since the Senate had done "a lot of good for governmental stability" in the past. However, he said that he would like the number of senators reduced. This would be a compromise between the positions of senators and elected MP's, he noted. M. R. Khukrit also said he did not mind civil servants being appointed cabinet ministers. "Every political party would like to be the government. When it does so, it needs the support of the civil servants," he concluded.

EDITORIAL NOTES SRV ATTACKS ON BORDER

BK030151 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Feb 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Troubling Events at Our Frontiers"]

[Text] For the fifth year in a row, Vietnam's Army is on the dry-season move in Kampuchea. It is hitting away with various successes and failures at a Khmer opposition which Hanoi has been claiming for four years did not exist. Vietnam's leaders have contradicted their own words by turning loose divisions against a nationalist resistance force which has continued a tenacious struggle for the freedom of their country against odds which, on the fact of it, are overwhelming.

In the latest battle, Vietnamese forces massed at the outskirts of a Kampuchean camp most commonly known by the name Nong Chan. With sheer numbers, they managed to run off the small Khmer garrison. With their usual disregard for those in their way, the Vietnamese soldiers also ran some 40,000 Kampucheans off their makeshift dwelling area beside the military camp, destroying a hospital of the International Committee of the Red Cross and killing an unknown number of civilians. And the result was so predictable: The Khmer guerrillas suffered few casualties and most will fight many other days against Vietnam; the civilian toll was much higher and much more tragic, and Thai and foreign relief workers set to work once again to clean up a part of the continuing tragedy of Kampuchea.

This fifth dry season of Vietnamese attacks is marked mostly by Hanoi's pique over the Kampuchean people. The communists have lost ground on the political front, most especially at the last session of the United Nations. They have lost propaganda ground, most especially because of the presence of Prince Norodom Sihanouk at the head of the Democratic Kampuchea Government. They have lost military ground, most especially in the last two months to the suddenly aggressive forces of Prime Minister Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

We are frankly pleased at the progress of the Kampuchean freedom fighters against the Vietnamese occupiers of their country. It is a clear question of right and wrong across the border there, and intellectually we are always pleased when the forces of right make progress against the forces of wrong. But there are far more important issues at stake as well.

The Vietnamese army has once again moved to the very edge of our frontiers. Hanoi's press is in full cry against Thailand. We have no worry that our armed forces can protect our country. But the very fact that they are being confronted by an army from a far-away country is very troubling, indeed. We continue to hold that the people's army of Vietnam has every right to defend Vietnam. It has neither the legal nor the moral right to occupy Kampuchea and conduct military operations which in any final analysis can only be seen to be provocative and dangerous to Thailand.

It is well past the time, although never too late, for Vietnam to look after its own affairs, and to let citizens of other nations of the world--most certainly including Kampuchea--to look after their own affairs as well.

CSO: 4200/345

EDITORIAL ANALYZES SRV SHELLING ATTACKS

BK040341 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 4 Feb 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Shelling Thai Soil Delivers Clear Message"]

[Text] Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea are in their fifth dry season offensive and are lobbing shells into Thailand, either for the fun of it or for some ulterior reason. Do we believe that? Some may go deeper into the situation and say that the Vietnamese are on full-scale attack on the guerrilla forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann and are firing 'warning' shells into Thailand to 'warn Thailand that she is assisting the guerrilla forces of Democratic Kampuchea which Thailand, ASEAN and the United Nations recognize. Does that make sense?

Of course Thailand and fellow-members of ASEAN are doing their best to help Kampuchea but in the diplomatic field and in international forums and, again, trying all ways possible to get international opinion mustered to get the Vietnamese forces out of Kampuchea. Everybody knows that Thailand neither has the resources nor the intention of being military supporters of the guerrilla forces of Democratic Kampuchea. However, it is true that Hanoi believes, wrongly, that Thailand is behind the guerrilla forces and so is lobbing shells into Thai territory. Again, is that logical?

No, none of this makes sense or logic but when a politically mature country like Vietnam violates the sovereignty of Thai territory there are ulterior motives and, if we may put it pejoratively, there is method in this madness. Let us get into the basics. China is militarily supplying the guerrillas with military hardware and the Russians are doing the same for Vietnam. The artillery shells that fell on Thai soil were not manufactured in either of the three countries of Indochina over which Hanoi ultimately aims to claim overlordship--they were manufactured in the Soviet Union.

This, we believe, is an indirect hint not to Thailand but to the Soviet Union, at a critical time. Hanoi's leaders have every right to feel nervous about the course of events under the new Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov. Hanoi has openly said that it does not want to eliminate Khmer resistance during this dry season--a platitude meaning that, if she did so, there may be a 'second lesson' from

China. Complicating matters further would be that a second lesson from China to Vietnam would sabotage the upcoming Sino-Soviet talks in Moscow. Or would it? What is Kremlin's priority? Neither we nor the leaders in Hanoi can answer these questions.

But, without getting into imponderables or into big power politics we can only reflect what is the correct view from Bangkok. It is not within the possibility of Thailand, or for that matter ASEAN, to influence the start negotiations in Geneva or the forthcoming Sino-Soviet talks. But to some extent Hanoi can influence in the Sino-Soviet negotiations. China has insisted on deeds on three areas, and Indochina may be the first in which the Soviet Union may decide to make the concession. The Politburo in Hanoi must calculate the odds.

Secondly, Mikhail Kapista is arriving in Bangkok day after tomorrow and let us dismiss the visit as a courtesy call because our Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Phanuphong went to Moscow late last year. Kapista is coming here for specific reasons, despite the fact that Thailand's position in the Kampuchean guerrilla war is open and well-advertised. And Thailand will not make any unilateral decisions to suit the Soviet Union without consultations with her ASEAN partners.

Vietnamese may have pulled the trigger, but the shells that fell on Thai soil were made in the Soviet Union. This has a direct bearing on Kapista's visit, a determined ploy by Hanoi to make Thailand stiffen its position vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and a parallel attempt to take some bargaining chips away from whatever Kapista comes to talk about.

CSO: 4200/343

BRIEFS

INDONESIAN RICE PURCHASE--Indonesia has agreed to buy 120,000 tons of Thai rice worth about 450 million baht for delivery from now until June. The purchase agreement was signed this week by chairman of Indonesian Bureau of Logistics Goods Lt Gen Bustanil Arifin and director general of the Foreign Trade Department Danai Dulalapha. Danai disclosed that Indonesia is expected to buy another 100,000 tons of Thai rice around March. [BK130452 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 7 Jan 83 BK]

SRV SHELLING PROTESTED--Bangkok, 2 Feb (AFP)--Thailand today protested to the United Nations about the recent attack by Vietnamese troops on Cambodians in which a Thai villager was also killed. The note, submitted by Thailand's U.N. representative Phiraphong Kasemsi to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said Vietnamese troops "deliberately fired" about 30 artillery shells into four Thai border villages during their attack on Nong Chan border encampment on Monday. A Thai civilian was killed while two others were seriously wounded. The shelling also caused "severe damage" to houses and killed livestock, the note said. It said the attack and the subsequent burning down of Nong Chan border encampment, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) north of the key Cambodian border town of Poipet, had forced about 47,000 Cambodian civilians to cross the Thai-Cambodian border to seek temporary shelter. The Thai Government strongly "condemns such unprovoked and blatant acts" by Vietnamese troops against Thai sovereignty and territorial integrity, the note said. It urged Vietnam to exercise self-restraint and desist from further acts of armed aggression. Yesterday, the Thai Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the attack on Nong Chan. [Text] [BK021550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 2 Feb 83]

TRADE WITH PRC--Thailand last year enjoyed a surplus of 3,910 million baht in trade with China, a turnaround after four years of continuing deficits, the Thai commercial counsellor in Beijing has reported to the Commerce Ministry. Kraw Sinthuchao reported that the bilateral trade volume last year was at the highest level of 12,000 million baht. The surplus was attributed to imports of several commodities by China which went beyond the original targets. The commodities included rice, raw sugar, tobacco leaves from three to 10 times over the targets. Kraw said. In the same year, Thailand bought only 100,000 tons of Shengli crude and 80,000 tons of high-speed diesel oil. [Text] [BK190724 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Jan 83 p 10 BK]

SUGAR EXPORT EARNINGS--In 1982 Thailand exported about 1.9 million tons of sugar worth 12.85 billion baht, an increase of about 76 percent over the volume exported in 1981 as well as an increase of 44 percent in earnings over 1981. [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 13 Jan 83 BK]

BPP BUDGET PLANS--The Border Patrol Police [BPP] will receive a budget of 741.76 million baht between now and 1986 in an effort to expand the force's role in defending Thailand's borders, the BANGKOK POST learned yesterday. The budget constitutes the largest portion of that allocated to the police department, and the Interior Ministry plans to add 4,471 BPP officers to the force for each of the years covered by the budget. A budget of nearly 65 million baht has been allocated for 1984. [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 83 p 5 BK]

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS--On 19 January the king received separately credentials from the following ambassadors: Paulo da Costa Franco, the Brazilian ambassador; Julio Leccarte Muro, the Uruguay ambassador; 'Abd al-Muhsin Nasir al-Ji'ani, the Kuwait ambassador; and Mohammad Moshin, the Bangladesh ambassador. [BK260355 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 19 Jan 83 BK]

RICE EXPORTS TO MAURITANIA--Mauritania has agreed to buy 84,000 tons of broken rice from Thailand on a government-to-government basis. The first shipment of 14,000 tons will be made in March to be followed by a shipment of 14,000 tons every 70 days. The agreement on the sale of broken rice, worth about \$15.5 million, to Mauritania was signed in Bangkok on 26 January between the Thai commerce minister and the Mauritanian minister of trade and industry. [BK311631 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1000 GMT 27 Jan 83 BK]

INVESTMENT IN 1982--New investment in Thailand dropped drastically last year with applications made for promotional privileges dropping to its lowest level in three years, a Board of Investment [BOI] official disclosed yesterday. The BOI, he said, received only 200 applications for privileges in 1982, a drop of 25.53 percent from the applications received in 1981. What was more significant, he noted, is that the total investment involved in the projects was only 21,477 million baht, a massive reduction of 87.75 percent from the 140,783 million baht total investment involved in the previous year. The official said too that while promotional privileges were granted to 110 projects involving a total investment of 10,139 million baht last year, this involved a decrease of 35.3 percent in the number of projects given privileges in 1981. It was also a significant decrease of 88.22 percent in the total amount of investment involved. The BOI issued 122 promotional certificates in 1982 compared to 121 certificates in 1981, said the official. The investment involved last year was 10,897 million baht compared to 7,254 million baht the previous year--an increase of 33.44 percent. [BK260355 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jan 83 p 17 BK]

CSO: 4200/345

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

PROPER REGISTRATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS URGED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Dec 82 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Properly Carry Out Registration and Management of Reserve Officers"]

[Text] Building and strengthening the military reserve, to make it more stable and vigorous with every passing day, is a major requirement of the task of building a powerful national defense system, with the entire people's participation, and of firmly defending the socialist fatherland. A resolution of the Fifth Party Congress clearly stated, "We must build a people's armed force and a national defense system with the entire people's participation, focusing on main and regional troops, balanced and synchronized standby and reserve forces, necessary numerical strength and ever-increasing quality.

The ranks of reserve officers are the activist force of the reserve. A strong body of reserve officers is a condition for raising the quality of the draftable force in order to ensure, in case of hostilities, prompt conscription, prompt organization, and prompt response to combat requirements. The process of training and utilizing the ranks of reserve officers include selection, political indoctrination, drill, registration, management, classification and conscription. To achieve the fastest pace of mobilization as well as the highest norm and efficiency, reserve officers, upon completion of basic training, must be subject to careful and strict registration and management. The registration and management task is important, and has a decisive import on the process of training and utilizing reserve officers. Decree 153/HDBT of 8 September 1982 of the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the "System of Vietnam People's Army Reserve Officers" clearly defined the tasks, targets, procedures, division of responsibilities and delegation of authority regarding registration and management of reserve officers.

Registering and strictly managing reserve officers, in terms of quantity and quality, is a regular task which needs appropriate attention. Proper peacetime registration and management is the groundwork for prompt, satisfactory, adequate, accurate and excellent wartime mobilization. Proper registration creates favorable conditions for strict management.

Conversely, proper management means the avoiding of errors and omissions, achieving promptness, focusing on right targets within the right schedule, and fulfilling numerical norms in registration. Proper registration and management also promote the implementation of training and conscription plans, making them more responsive in all instances of war. Besides creating conditions for keeping close tabs on the number of reserve officers, and the attributes of each and every one of them, the registration and management task also helps commanders and specialized organs follow closely the technical, tactical and vocational standards, command capabilities and skills of each reserve officer on the rolls.

Specialized organs from the Ministry of Defense down to localities have the task of registering and managing the number and attributes of entire units and individual reserve officers. At the local level, district, ward and city military organs are basic units directly in charge of registering and managing reserve officers residing under their jurisdiction. To register and manage properly, specialized organs cannot rely solely on administrative measures, but they must also coordinate with organs, sectors and mass organizations. In addition, they must coordinate strict observance of laws and regulations with education and propaganda among the masses. Local military organs must coordinate closely with standby military units, corps (quan chung), branches and technical units, in order properly to manage and organize each year political indoctrination and military training for reserve officers.

9213

CSO: 4209/175

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SAGA OF TRAIN HOLDUP RECOUNTED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Dec 82 p 3

[Article by Phan Van Sung: "Train Story"]

[Text] The Hue-Vinh train was moving slowly. The night was late and the wind was cold. Some passengers clung to their luggage, others leaning against the side of the car. Silence prevailed, except for the rattle of wheels moving on the rails and the engine's roar. Pacing about, platoon leader Le Ba Chi looked at the rows of seats, then at the outside. The landscape was passing at great speed.

The train had passed two stations. Aware that an unsafe portion of the road lay ahead, Chi inspected his weapons once again. Suddenly, someone whistled, breaking the silence, then shouts were heard, "Bandits! Bandits!"

Chi ran to the next car. A young man, whose wristwatch had just been snatched away from him, stood still in front of a band of youths with shoulder length, disheveled hair, and brandishing shining knife blades. Quickly Chi approached the group. One of the gang members pointed his blade at Chi's belly and said insolently, "Want to go down to hell?"

"What is wrong, my friends?" Chi said softly. He glanced at the doors and saw none of his comrades-in-arms. He knew that it was not yet time for him to get tough with the gang. Then Chi looked at the passengers. Tens of pairs of eyes were glued on him, as if they wanted to say, "Confront the gang, and we'll support you." Since Chi was slim and small, the robbers paid little attention to him. A gang member commented arrogantly, "Oh, nothing much!"

Then, the gang left the scene. The five robbers put their blades back into their side pockets.

Chi, who had waited for just that, chose an advantageous position, then threw two powerful punches. Two robbers sank to the floor. Chi lost no time in attacking the remaining three, still numbed by his action. Passengers on the train stood up, shouting, "Beat the robbers to death! Beat them up!"

Defying the cries of passengers, two accomplices from an adjoining car promptly showed up. However, many passengers were ready to join the fray. With their support, Chi, alone, and in a matter of minutes, knocked down seven purse snatchers on the train.

All passengers on that train spoke well of Chi, "His stature is small but his valor is great."

Le Ba Chi, the valiant and resourceful combatant fully committed to protecting the people, is a platoon leader of Company 17, of the Military Command of Binh Tri Thien Province.

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CSO: 4209/175

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

NAM DINH YOUTH LAUNCH DRIVE TO CLEAN UP MUSIC, BOOKS

Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese No 48 30 Nov-6 Dec 82 p 4

[Article by Dang Trung: "Drive To Build Wholesome Cultural Life; Nam Dinh Erupts"]

[Text] The campaign started on Sunday morning. The public security youth unit of the municipal youth union was ready and awaiting orders. A unit of nearly 50 youths, composed of prominent young members of the public security forces, the army, and self-defense forces in enterprises and subwards, had been fully trained.

The city of Nam Dinh is bustling with activity as a communications center, a central city of the Bac Bo delta area, and also the site of many large factories and many vocational schools. Since the day of liberation in the south and cultural contact, unseemly cultural goods have been introduced into Nam Dinh from newly liberated cities. The authorities and responsible agencies carried out frequent cleanups, but there could still be heard, at one place or another, interminable tapes of that ugly music, sometimes blaring openly out in the street. Along with school books, school children's bookbags contained unseemly books and pictures. With the municipal agencies of information and culture and public security, the Nam Dinh Municipal Youth Union, unable to let bad cultural goods sully and defile the wholesome cultural life of the city, launched a cleanup campaign among responsive youths to confiscate bad cultural goods and build a wholesome cultural life.

The secretary of the municipal youth union, Bui Tuc Thinh, monitored the campaign. Coordinating actions with the public security youth unit of the municipal youth union were the public security youth units of subwards, schools, agencies, and enterprises. The public security youth unit of the municipal youth union concentrated on key points in the city. Rong Market was the starting point. Stalls selling recorded music tapes, radios, and cassettes made the marketplace cacophonous morning to night with sometimes strident percussion, sometimes whining and plaintive songs of former Saigon vocalists.

Hundreds of the unseemly tapes were confiscated on the spot. On Tran Phu Street and Tran Hung Dao Street, shops playing the ugly music were entered and searched by the youth unit.

A unit member asked a shopkeeper:

"Do you know that these recordings contain the soft, plaintive songs of Saigon singers?"

"Well, to tell the truth, I pay no attention to them. I only play them for the entertainment of customers, to make them happy."

"Do you call this happy?"

The public security unit member then pushed the button on the tape player. The words of the song came plaintively, "You take me home as the day wanes..." Shutting off the machine, he said to the shopkeeper:

"Now you heard that, didn't you. . You have been concealing bad cultural goods and have furthermore distributed them among customers. You have not complied with city directives. We will take your evil taped music and also this tape player, because it has been the means by which you have spread poison."

The shopkeeper responded:

"Please. I have done wrong. Go ahead and confiscate the music tapes, but the player—. We agree to never to play the old Saigon songs anymore."

The shopkeeper had to sign a memorandum. His modern tape player was not confiscated, but he learned a lesson.

The campaign lasted 5 consecutive weeks. Street chapters of the union held study sessions and opened them up to the people. The people exposed sites where bad books were lent out.

Miss N. from Tran Dang subward, just 17 years old, had been reading romantic novels from old Saigon out of curiosity and neglecting her studies. After attending the study session, she was startled that she had nearly become a degenerate. She exposed a bad book lending outlet to the public security youth unit of the school.

Throughout the third and fourth weeks of the campaign, piles of degenerate and reactionary books were collected. Not only did self-aware youths bring in the bad books, tapes, and pictures--the people also delivered them to the public security youth unit. Phun Xuan L., on Cong Hau Street, was accused by the people of recording tapes of unseemly music. He was caught red-handed. When the public security youth unit entered his house, his tape recorder was running, recording unseemly music to sell for profit.

Following up on the success of the campaign to clean up bad cultural goods, the municipal youth union launched among young people throughout the city a drive to build a wholesome cultural life. The drive was well received by the young people. The Tran Te Xuong subward Youth Union, after generally cleaning up the street, cleaned up a refuse dump and converted it into a collective music and dance and cultural activities center for young people.

The youth group of the public security sector of the city held a drive to develop a neighborhood on a new model, with the following objectives: streets clean and beautiful; no traffic accidents; sidewalks unobstructed; no ugly music broadcast in the streets; people not allowed to wash clothes at public hydrants. Building momentum is the movement for wholesome arts and letters and cultural activities; political song groups and arts and letters groups have been strengthened at all basic levels of the youth union. The drive was active in clubs of young people at the thread factory, the trade corporation, Technical Normal School II, the light industry technical school, the school of pedagogy. Many new arts appeared in the collective song and dance movement at the My Loc level-III school, industrial school, Le Hong Phong school, My Xa Village Union, and arts and letters units of Loc An village, the October Machine Works Cooperative, Anh Thiep Cooperative, Dong Tam Cooperative, and the 19 May Textile Cooperative.

The young of Nam Dinh City are enkindling a life that is truly active and wholesome.

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CSO: 4209/153

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

TRANG VIET VILLAGE BATTLES ROBBERY ON RED RIVER

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 12 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Huong Giang, of the Municipal Procuratorate: "Trang Viet: a Number of Preliminary Experiences in the Fight To Protect Socialist Property on the River"]

[Text] A nearly 5 km stretch of the Red River flows through Trang Viet Village, Me Linh District. For many years now, robbers have frequently made attempts along this stretch to seize goods of the state being transported by. The crime rate has increased daily, and actions have become increasingly bolder.

The perpetrators do not miss a trick, but recruit, entice, and bribe cadres and sailors on barges to go attack and overwhelm responsible cadres and personnel of the village and agency.

The People's Committee of Trang Viet Village often took action to protect socialist property being transported on the river, but results were quite limited. They were unable to strongly mobilize the people to participate in a protection movement, and they did not differentiate the incidents and handle them in a timely way. The people's committee placed importance on arrest and suppression instead of methods of management, reformation, education, and mobilization of the masses.

Faced with this situation, right from the start of 1982, the People's Procuratorate of Me Linh District asserted control to help the authorities implement Directive No 267 of the Council of Ministers in the matter of protecting property of the state being transported on the river. Some results have been realized in the control effort; following are the principal lessons learned.

1. Closely coordinate measures to teach the law with measures to mobilize the masses.

The most difficult problem in Trang Viet was how to launch a strong mass movement, to gain participation in the effort to protect socialist property being transported on the river. Because of family and neighborhood ties, many people did not want to accuse perpetrators, who were fellow villagers

and members of their own family. For personal profit, a number of people did not consider it a serious offense to take a small amount or to pay money for stolen goods. Those who made positive preventive efforts were insulted and threatened, so they gradually gave up and decided it was not their affair. Thus, for many years now, when the village committee organized meetings for people to discuss property on the river, few people attended and very few people dared speak frankly and truthfully and discuss concrete measures.

The district procuratorate saw that to launch the masses, it must make the people understand the law on protecting socialist property; cadres and Party members of the village must first adhere closely to the law. The procuratorate composed a training lesson to explain the law and in it clearly revealed the citizens' right and duty to protect socialist property. The procuratorate coordinated with the village committee in teaching phase 1 to 157 Party members and basic-level and sector cadres, and the leaders of 24 production units. Van Chai Hamlet, which has 53 family units drifting on the river all day long from Viet Tri down to Pha Den and which had never attended a meeting, appointed representatives of 37 families to attend the meeting.

Equipped with knowledge of the law, some people positively and forcefully accused perpetrators of illegal activities. Production units, Party chapters and mass organizations organized discussion sessions. After 5 days of meetings, when the power of the masses grew, 57 robbers and consumers of socialist property on the river had been exposed by the masses. The masses also boldly revealed the names of six deviant and corrupt Party members and petitioned the Party organization to dismiss them from the Party. A hoodlum by the name of Nguyun Van Dan, very well known in the village, which resolved to concentrate on reforms, was in hiding; he was also brought to light by the masses. In reaction to the mass movement, the village chairman said enthusiastically, "In our village, there has never been so forceful a mass movement to protect socialist property."

2. Closely coordinate Party leadership with the functions of state management sectors.

Key to every effort to protect socialist property in general is the intimate coordination of the leadership role of the Party with effective implementation of the functions of state management sectors. The matter was studied by the Me Linh Procuratorate and implemented in Trang Viet.

To help the village Party committee provide close guidance in the effort, the procuratorate, based on Directive 267 of the Council of Ministers, proposed that the standing committee of the Me Linh District VCP Committee direct sectors and mass organizations to take measures to protect socialist property in each successive period, and to use practical work assignments, functions, and authority. After receiving the directive of the district Party committee, the procuratorate requested that the district people's committee instruct each sector in its functions, like public security, army, inspection, youth, etc., and assign cadres responsibility for helping each sector of the village to plan actions.

With a directive from the district Party committee, support from a mass movement, and positive help from district sectors, the People's Committee of Trang Viet Village effectively used state management functions to protect socialist property being transported on the river. The incidence of theft of socialist property declined. In only a short time the village people's committee seized 6,060 kg of coal and 8,950 kg of cement from individuals guilty of conspiring with sailors to steal property from the state. Seized were 12 heavy (2-3 ton) cargo craft used by a number of individuals to steal property being transported on the river.

3. Deal strictly with those stealing socialist property.

Treatment of those who stole socialist property in Trang Viet was guided by the procuratorate on the basis of closely coordinating education and punishment; treatment was correct, timely, and individualized. These methods aimed at reforming and educating the transitory wrongdoer and dealing with the hardened criminal.

In order to categorize them and decide on appropriate management and treatment methods, the village people's committee completed the list of those who had robbed and illegally acquired state property. With those families who acquired or stole, on a first offense basis, a small quantity of state property for the sole purpose of using it, the committee decided to confiscate the stolen goods and apply administrative punishment and a fine. A professional criminal was arrested by the public security agency. Four Party members with many offenses were dismissed from the Party; two others are awaiting judgements.

Only preliminary results are in from actions taken by the Me Linh Procuratorate to help Trang Viet Village increase protection for socialist property being transported on the river. The procuratorate is studying their experience to see how they can help Trang Viet more to push on with this task. The Trang Viet experience will provide the procuratorate with lessons learned on the village level in the fight to protect goods transported on the river. These lessons will be reported to the Me Linh District Committee and the district people's committee for dissemination to other villages in the district that are traversed by the river.

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CSO: 4209/153

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BORDER REGIMENT SAID TO REDUCE SKIN DISEASE

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 18 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Asst. Prof. Nguyen Xuan Hien: "Preventing and Fighting Skin Disease in B30 Regiment"]

[Text] The B30 Regiment has the mission of building the Mai Pha-Na Duong railroad. Its construction mission is very difficult and urgent, and is carried out in complicated terrain. Some of its companies must live in people's houses in areas in which there are still many epidemic pockets. The troops are exposed to the elements all day long at the construction site and have difficult living and bathing conditions. At the end of 1981 between 29 and 40 percent of the unit members had skin diseases. The actual situation helped the cadres and men in the unit to reach the conclusion that "in order to ensure a high ratio of healthy troops in order to fulfill the construction norms, we cannot but be concerned with maintaining health." In the maintenance of health the task of preventing and fighting skin diseases plays an important role. According to medical statistics during the first months, the ratio of skin diseases was always higher than that of the other diseases. Skin diseases were always the principal reason for the reduction in the number of troops working. A disease prevention and health protection plan was drafted and its implementation was organized.

At the beginning of 1982 the regiment sprayed DDT on 27,000 square meters of housing and 997 people were inoculated against cholera. The unit set aside 120 hours to talk about sanitation and disease prevention to a total audience of 14,000. Some 32 additional sanitation works were built--including 12 wells for obtaining water for cooking--in addition to the digging of fish ponds, the bringing of additional land into cultivation, and the improvement of the environment. Strengthening internal order gradually became a voluntary practice on the part of cadres and enlisted men.

We visited a number of the regiment's companies. Although they were made of thatch and bamboo, the units' houses were neat and attractive. The sleeping mats were arranged in a straight row. Each had a label with the person's name and wire from which to hang mosquito netting. The blankets were folded in squares and the backpacks were arranged in rows. Clean, shiny weapons were arranged neatly on wooden racks. On the veranda there was a place for

cups, bowls and chopsticks, and toothbrushes. Behind the houses there were clotheslines clearly marked off into areas for drying washcloths, underwear, and uniforms. In front there was a platform for drying crocks for containing food. The houses of the women were even neater and more attractive. Beside the common privy the women erected a separate privy for themselves. Both the regiment and the companies set up committees to guide the treatment of skin diseases. The committees were headed by the military administration cadres and medical cadres served as their deputies. The committees included representatives of the camp quartermaster office. Every day the duty officer supervised the troops in observing the bathing and laundry regulations. The medical corpsmen and the sanitation personnel organized the application of medicine, the boiling of clothing, the boiling of water for ill people, bathing according to a roster, and refused to allow people to fail to bathe because they were busy or forgot.

In the B70 Regiment, all companies have gardens with about 20 kinds of plants which serve the treatment of a number of ordinary diseases, such as colds and flu, sore throat, and diarrhea. The medicinal gardens are fenced, the names of the plants are posted on wooden stakes, and the gardens are tended and watered every day. All of the gardens were luxuriant and healthy. The regiment's native medicine compounding laboratory has just been equipped with an apothecary's mortar and several aluminum tubes to form pills, a wooden cabinet, and some bottles. Since the first of the year the laboratory has compounded 1,800 liters of ointment to treat prickly heat, which were distributed to the clinic and to the companies. Furthermore, the laboratory researched the production of a number of additional medicines to serve patients in the clinic. The "rice mold-sesbania" prescription given to the clinic by a mother in the village cured 83 patients after 7 days of treatment. With the application of the "blood tonic-alum" formula, seven patients with shingles were cured after 10 days of treatment. Thanks to the combination of Western medicine and native medicine, after more than 6 months of positive treatment the regiment reduced the made disease ratio from 29-40 percent down to the 3.6-6.5 percent. When we personally inspected two companies we found that only 9 to 11 males still had light cases of scabies. In one women's platoon, there were no instances of skin disease. Only 11 still had the symptom of prickly heat on their legs.

The results of preventing and fighting skin disease in the regiment, of course, are not yet permanent. But the unit has learned valuable lessons regarding the reasons for the movement's success. There must be a real transformation in the consciousness, sense of responsibility, and determination of the cadres. For each specific task there must be a specific plan, norms, and measures for combining Eastern medicine with Western medicine and relying on the rich local pharmaceutical sources and provide part of the unit's fungi and scabies cases so that it will not be dependent on supplies from the upper echelon. Thereby there can be permanent conditions for attacking disease and attaining a low disease ration.

The results attained by the B30 Regiment once again help us affirm that fungi and scabies are not an "inevitable" diseases of troops in the border

areas, as some of our comrades often think. With military administration and military medicine cadres who do a good job of managing the troops, grasp specialized technical subjects, and know how to mobilize the troops to make positive participation in building a sanitary way of life a regular practice, we are certain to gradually lower the ratio of troops with fungi and scabies and contribute to maintaining their health.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BORDER DEFENSE POST SAID TO WIN OVER LOCAL PEOPLE

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 18 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Vu Manh Tuong: "Gateway to Central Highlands Becomes Trap for Enemy Troops"]

[Text] Recently, in the area of operations of border defense post 657 in Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province, in which it is responsible for a segment of the Vietnam-Kampuchea border more than 20 kilometers long and which includes the Ya No and Ya Lau border defense villages inhabited by Bhanar, Jarai, Sedang, and Rhade ethnic minority people, a number of former soldiers and personnel of the Saigon puppet army and regime who have refused to reform themselves have cooperated with the Pol Pot troop remnants in seeking ways to attack the revolutions of our country and Kampuchea. They have deceived and coerced a number of people into fleeing into the jungle to serve as their lackeys, and have forced the families of such people to supply them with food.

The party committee and the commander of border defense post 657 decided that the men had to set up emulation to carry out the present major campaign and do a good job of the task of propagandizing and encouraging the organization of the ethnic minority people and strengthening the solidarity and unity of will between the soldiers and the people and between us and our Kampuchean friends by all means, so that the bandits could not harass the people or persuade the backward masses to oppose the revolution. That entire border area had to be turned into a "trap" for capturing enemy troops.

In order to implement that decision, the work teams expanded their activities and established closer contact with the villages in the border area. The men ate with, lived with, worked with, and spoke the language of, the ethnic minority people. At night some people who did not yet understand our troops were still worried and hesitant, and especially the families of people who had fled into the jungle to join the bandits did not want the border defense troops to live in the hamlets. But the border defense troops gradually propagandized and educated the people and every day worked with the people in clearing land for planting and creating slash-burn fields, ate manioc roots with them, and drank from the same stream. Only then did the people understand that the troops were sincere, diligent, and industrious, and were more concerned with the people than with themselves. Thus the initial

concerns of the people were dissipated. The troops worked with the people during the day. Every night the work teams divided up to visit the families and encourage the people in the hamlets, and by that means gained further understanding of the political and security situation in the hamlets. If a family in the hamlet encountered difficulties the men promptly assisted it. The men shared their medicine with the ill and shared their food rations with the small children. Sympathizing with the people's difficulties, the work teams also worked with the local administration in encouraging the people to come down from the mountains to practice fixed cultivation and habitation and create wet-rice paddies, and taught youths how to use plows and plant rice. Since the organization of fixed cultivation and habitation the lives of the people in the hamlets and villages clearly improved. That had several successful harvests in a row, and chronic hunger and disease were ended. By means of those good deeds they were able to win over the people. Everyone was fond of the troops. The people asked the opinions of the troops about major and minor problems of the families and hamlets. When the troops saw that someone had gone astray and had fled into the jungle to follow the bandits, the troops frequently went to motivate the people, such as the families of Mr. Sieu L. and Mrs. H, and explain to them the Party's lenient policy. Now there is not a single person in Ya Leu village or Ya No village who has gone astray and fled into the jungle to follow the bandits.

When Mrs. Lieu Lien, nearly 60 years old, was cultivating her slash-burn field seven FULRO members came up to her and threatened her by pointing a gun at her and holding a dagger to her throat, in order to force her to provide them with food. She remembered what the border defense troops said during the meeting held to recapitulate the "movement to protect border security." They were cruel enemy troops. Thus she not only refused to provide them food but cleverly tricked them into waiting in her house so that the border defense troops could surround and capture them. The upper echelon promptly commended her resourcefulness and courage.

The people there still recall the border defense troops' and local militia's spirit of persistently following the footprints of the remnant bandit troops. One day Roi Ma D discovered the footprints of bandits who had stolen sugarcane and rice the people were growing in their fields. She immediately went to inform the mass proselyting work team and the Lang Tu militia. Following her directions, a work team of 12 comrades including border defense troops and militiamen quickly set out to track down the enemy. When the bandits got wind of that they quickly covered up their tracks and slipped into the jungle to hide. Determined not to let the enemy escape, our troops tirelessly pursued them and 3 days later picked up their footprints. The detachment promptly encircled and cut off the enemy, killing two on the spot, wounding two others, and capturing many weapons and sabotage facilities.

The ethnic minority people are very confident in the border defense troops. The people supplied to the post hundreds of bits of information regarding political and criminal activity. Recently the local militia coordinated with the post to capture or persuade to surrender 16 FULRO members and Pol Pot.

The Youth Union chapter of the border defense troops had increased its assistance to the local chapters regarding the cultural-artistic task and

the creation of a new way of life, and has joined them in socialist labor to build youth border protection works and dig fishponds in the mountain region, and have by that means bolstered the political sense of responsibility of the local youth. The post also organized a joint cultural team made up of members of the local Youth Union chapter and the border defense post which performed for the people in the hamlets and villages for the people. Its songs, practically all of which had been created by members of the team, praised the combat to defend the border on the part of the troops and the people.

The post arranged for the people to contribute constructive opinions to the border defense cadres and men regarding their work style, conduct, and sense of responsibility toward the people. Many of the people contributed very truthful and accurate opinions, and helped the men review their conduct so that they could endeavor to improve. Recently, even in the teams working far from the leadership of the upper echelon, the ratio of violations of civilian proselyting discipline on the part of the cadres and men has greatly declined. When they noticed that many of the border defense troops had taken long home leaves and had not visited the villages, they sent some people to walk more than 20 kilometers to the post to enquire about them. Only when they arrived at the post and learned that our men had not yet returned were they at ease. When some border defense troops had to leave the hamlets and villages for several months at a time the people were very nostalgic when they said goodbye, and many people were so moved they could not hold back their tears.

On holidays the people sent representatives to visit and encourage the troops. Knowing that the troops were far from home and were living under arduous, tense conditions in the border area, the people gave them as gifts tens of kilos of glutinous rice, tens of kilos of fresh meat, stamps, envelopes, paper and pens, etc.

Evaluating border defense post 657, the commander of border defense forces of Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province said, "With a seething spirit of emulation, with practical acts, and concentrating on the political missions such as the present one, I am certain that post 657 will continue to win the designation "Determined-to-Win-Unit," as it has during the past several years.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ARMED FORCES AIRED IN ARMY NEWSPAPER

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Nov 82 p 3

[Readers' Letters column]

[Text] Worry About the Sound of Gunfire

Every day my family and I witness the unprincipled use of weapons and ammunition by the brick-production unit at Ngu Heip Village in Thanh Tri District, Hanoi. The unit is situated near a heavily travelled road about 100 meters from people houses. Occasionally, at about 1900 hours, there can be heard the sound of guns being fired by the unit. One day many rounds were fired from a submachine gun. The local people have complained about that many times. Where did the unit get so much ammunition? What is it shooting at?

I recommend that the unit's cadres investigate the unit's use of weapons and ammunition, and take steps to immediately end that dangerous and worrisome phenomenon.

Anh Tau
(P.O. Box 10A-60, Hanoi)

Use of Grenades to Catch Fish Must Be Ended

The city of Cao Bang is surrounded on three sides by two rivers. During the past 2 years there have been repeated instances of the use of grenades to catch fish in the rivers around the city. Neither the local governmental administration nor the units stationed near by have taken steps to strictly forbid that practice.

The people using grenades to catch fish include ordinary people, cadres, and troops, especially in the unit stationed at the airport. Some explosions are so strong that they shake the houses along the river. The explosions, which are too numerous and too strong, cause a loss of order and security and endanger the people in the area.

I recommend that the local administration and the units in the vicinity of Cao Bang City take steps to end the use of grenades and to catch fish and suitably punish violators.

The Thang
(Cao Bang City)

Haphazard Use of Explosives

In front of the gate of Group 355 there is a small stream. Every day grenades are thrown into the stream to kill fish. Every day about 10 to 15 grenades are thrown into stream, and on Sundays there are many times more than on ordinary days. Furthermore, some soldiers exchange explosives and detonators for cigarettes or give them as gifts.

The units authorized to use explosives must do a better job of managing them to avoid causing casualties and wasting state property. Military personnel who use explosives in an unauthorized manner should be appropriately disciplined.

Nguyen Huu Nhan
(Group 355)

The Dike Breaks, the Fish Are Washed Away

Our unit still does its work in an arbitrary manner and does not make calculations, which results in considerable harm to state property and the waste of the troops' time. Specifically, at the beginning of the year the unit rented a bulldozer to dig fishponds. The cost of renting that machine and buying fingerlings amounted to more than 10,000 dong (not counting thousands of workdays expended by the troops to dig the ponds). But while the commander was away on business he was replaced by the chief of staff. Due to the lack of a maintenance plan, after a night of heavy rain the dam collapsed and the fingerlings were all washed away. After that many cadres and men in the unit complained and regretted the investment of time and money. But the responsible comrades have not yet drafted a plan to repair the fishpond.

Some cadres and men
P.O. Box 2A-3532
(Bac Quang, Ha Tuyen)

Camp Destruction

Our unit took over management of the Van Kiep training school from another unit. The material bases to support life and study at the school were very suitable. For a long time after being stationed there the cadres and men were conscious of good maintenance. But when it was learned that the school would be transferred elsewhere, the camp was thrown into confusion and dismantling began. Trees were cut down to be used as firewood and the other facilities were dismantled for private use. A number of cadres were not exemplary so they did not admonish the lower echelon, and some of them were among the worst offenders. At present the camp is very "vacant" and no longer has attractive scenery. I recommend that the responsible cadres at the various echelons take steps to stop that haphazard dismantling so that the unit taking over the school will not have to spend much time and incur much expense in rebuilding the camp.

Phuong Chung
(Military Region 7 Military Administration School)

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

MILITARY REGION 9 CREATES PEOPLE'S SECURITY TEAMS

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Duy Tan: "Military Region 9 Border Defense Troops Create and Consolidate Many People's Security Teams"]

[Text] In the major campaign to "develop the fine nature and increase the combat strength" of the people's armed forces, the border defense forces of Military Region 9 have positively participated in building political and armed infrastructures in the localities, especially in the border and coastal villages. Many cadres and men have worked with local cadres to develop the villages and encourage the people to fulfill the central missions and implement such party policies as the setting up of production collectives, state purchasing, tax collection, and the promotion of troop recruitment. The border defense work teams, which were responsible for propagandizing in certain areas, educated the masses to contribute to building up the people's line to defend the border and the coast. By means of the forms of brotherhood and sponsoring, many units have contributed positively to consolidating the mass organizations and creating wholesome, pure cultural-artistic and physical education-sports movements.

The units coordinated with the localities in organizing 831 meetings, attended by more than 100,000 people, to expose the stratagems of the enemy's psychological warfare and many-sided sabotage warfare; created and consolidated 150 people's security teams and 13 militia platoons; gave military training to more than 3,236 members of militia and self-defense units; persuaded 13,078 youths to enlist; proposed and helped consolidate 70 mass organizations and 35 production collectives; and helped the party committees discover some bad elements who had sneaked in. The units coordinated with the militia-self defense forces in continually guarding the key places and arresting on the spot many people who cause trouble and disturb order and security.

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CSO: 4209/115

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BORDER DEFENSE SERGEANT SAID TO CAPTURE ENEMY SINGLEHANDEDLY

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 19 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Hoang Dao Toan: "Capturing the Enemy Singlehandedly"]

[Text] After a rainstorm Sgt. Le Manh Tha was ordered by his squad leaders to report on the situation to the commander of border defense post 657 in Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province so that the post could promptly implement a plan to crack down the FULRO bandits.

Along the way, Tha thought about the deficiencies of the previous night's battle. The bandits came but we failed to wipe them all out, and allowed them to take advantage of the thick jungle and darkness to get away. Suddenly he heard the rustling of tree branches. With the reflexes of a border defense soldier, as quickly as a fox he jumped behind some bushes alongside the path and waited. About 50 meters away two heads wearing striped turbans popped up.

Were there many of the bandits? Should he shoot them or capture them? What if the whole gang ran away? A whole series of questions popped into Tha's head. He answered them: he had to capture them and definitely not allow them to escape!

He expertly crawled toward the bandits. Forty meters, 30 meters, 25 meters.... When he was about 15 meters away, using a large tree trunk as cover he suddenly stood up and shouted, "Put your hands up! If you surrender you'll live, if you resist you'll die."

Two bandits, as if shocked by electricity, immediately raised their hands and appeared to be surprised by the border defense soldier who had apparently jumped down from the sky.

When he saw that Tha was alone, one of the enemy intended to pick up his weapon and resist but Tha fired two warning shots. The enemy was terrified and no longer dared resist. The two enemy were survivors of the previous night's battle with the border defense troops who were attempting to flee. By interrogating them we learned that there were still bandits hiding out in the jungle. That information was very useful in our campaign to mop up the enemy.

Last year, in many brave, bold battles, Le Manh Tha contributed effectively to maintaining border security. The unit elected him a Warrior of Emulation and his commander recommended that he be awarded a Military Exploit medal. He is also an outstanding soldier whose accomplishments were reported at the Worker-Peasant-Soldier Congress of Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province.

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

NEW LAW ON VPA OFFICERS PROMULGATED

Hanoi LUAT HOC in Vietnamese No 3, Jul-Sep 82 pp 23-26

[Article by Dam Van Hieu: "Law On Officers of the Vietnam People's Army"]

[Text] During its 30 December 1981 session the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam approved the Law on Officers of the Vietnam People's Army and the Military Obligation Law. The approval of those two laws during the same session of the National Assembly had an important significance. Both of those laws were intended to fulfill the requirements of developing our army into a powerful, professional, and modern revolutionary people's army and ensuring the victorious fulfillment of the mission of defending and building the socialist Vietnamese homeland.

The officers corps is the backbone of the people's army. The officers, the people who command the units, must grasp professional military matters and know how to organize combat under all circumstances. They are people who educate and train the lower echelon in order to ensure that the lower echelon maintains discipline, grasps military knowledge, and has a staunch fighting spirit. In 1958 the National Assembly of the DRV approved a law which stipulated the system of service of VPA officers. That law contributed importantly to building a large, strong people's army which, along with the people, won total victory in the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation, defended the north, liberated the south, and brought about the complete independence and unification of the homeland.

Over a period of more than 20 years the situation of the revolution has undergone many changes. Our people are building socialism against the background of the Chinese hegemonists, the U.S. imperialists, and the imperialist powers feverishly seeking all ways to oppose the Vietnamese revolution. Therefore, we must build an all-round, modern national defense of all the people in order to defend our country and be prepared to defeat any enemy committing aggression against our country. In order to meet the requirement of building a professional, modern people's army in the current phase of the revolution, the promulgation of a new law regarding VPA officers was essential in order to replace the 1958 law stipulating the service system of VPA officers. Building on and developing the 1958 law, the 1958 law, the new law was promulgated on the basis of recapitulating our experiences in building the army's officer corps over a period of over 20 years and of researching the

experiences of the armies of the fraternal socialist countries. We have below presented the basic features of the law.

I. On the Law's Title.

The old law, promulgated in 1958, was called the "Law Stipulating the Service System of Officers of the Vietnam People's Army." If the new law retained that name it would not fully encompass the contents of the law, for the new law not only stipulates the service system of officers but also stipulates many other matters regarding officers, such as qualifications for admission to officers' training, sources for the supplementation of the officers corps, the commissioning of officers, the obligations and rights of officers, etc. Therefore, the new law is called the "Law on Officers of the Vietnam People's Army," which is a more general term.

II. On the Contents of the Law.

With regard to contents, the Law on Officers of the Vietnam People's Army concentrates on resolving the following fundamental problems:

1. Standards for selecting and training officers.

Officers of the VPA include active-duty officers and reserve officers. In order to be trained as an officer, a citizen must meet certain standards in order to ensure that the officers corps has the necessary quality, ability, and virtue to serve as the backbone of the VPA. The law stipulates that "Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who are fully qualified politically, culturally, and with regard to health and age, and are capable of activity in the military sphere, may be trained to become officers" (Article 4).

Our army is now undergoing strong development. Its corps of officers must have the revolutionary virtues of being "loyal to the party and filial toward the people," must have the necessary educational level, have ability corresponding to the responsibility that is assigned, and must be suitable for the requirements of combat and work in the army with regard to health and age. Those stipulations are entirely appropriate to the requirements of building a corps of officers for a professional, modern people's army. Furthermore, in order to meet those requirements the law stipulates that the sources for supplementing the corps of active-duty officers are military personnel who have graduated from officers' training schools; noncommissioned officers who have done a good job of fulfilling their combat missions; military personnel who are college graduates and do a good job of specialized-technical work; cadres of sectors outside the army who serve in the army and are commissioned as officers; and reserve officers" (Article 5).

2. Ranks and positions of officers:

a. Ranks and waiting period for promotion

The old law stipulated that there were 12 ranks. There were four ranks of generals: Senior General, Colonel General, Lieutenant General, and Major

General. There were four ranks of field-grade officers and four ranks of company-grade officers: Senior Colonel, Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, and Major; and Senior Captain, Captain, First Lieutenant, and Second Lieutenant. Furthermore, there was the Third Lieutenant rank, which was not an officer's rank but was also regarded as a rank. Thus there were a total of 13 ranks. According to the old law, the waiting time for consideration for promotion to the next rank is no longer recognized as an officer-candidate rank. The waiting time between promotions has been reduced. For example, according to the old law the waiting time for promotion from Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant and from First Lieutenant to Captain was 3 years, but the new law reduces that period to 2 years, etc. According to the new law, the waiting period between the rank of Second Lieutenant and the rank of Senior Colonel is only 20 years.

The new law redefines the system of ranks and the waiting time for promotions stated in articles 7 and 9, as stated above, in order to ensure that there is a corps of young, healthy officers who can meet the requirements of commanding combat and work in the army. In the past, in general upper-echelon officers were advanced in years--on the average a Senior Colonel had to be over 50 years old--but according to the new law a Senior Colonel can be 40 to 45 years old and a Major General could be 45 to 50 years old. Furthermore, with regard to the Navy, the new law establishes separate ranks at the general-officer level: Admiral [Do Doc Hai Quan] (corresponding to Colonel General), Vice Admiral [Pho Do Doc Hai Quan] (corresponding to Lieutenant General), and Rear Admiral [Chuan Do Doc Hai Quan] (corresponding to Major General). The old law did not provide for separate naval ranks.

In considering the commissioning and promotion of officers, in addition to the standards set by the old law, such as revolutionary qualities, work ability, time in grade, etc., the new law adds the requirement of having to complete stipulated programs (Article 8). For example, to be promoted from Lieutenant Colonel to Senior Colonel an officer must graduate from a mid-level institute program, and a technical or medical noncommissioned officer must be a graduate of a college or postgraduate program. Officers with the rank of Senior Colonel who want to be promoted to the rank of Major General must graduate from a high-level military institute, etc. The training programs are determined by the Minister of National Defense. The supplementation of standards, as stated above, is intended to encourage officers to raise their levels by means of professional programs and ensure that all officers are equal to the positions assigned them so that they can fulfill their missions.

Officers in the three following categories--achieving accomplishments in combat and work, fulfilling one's responsibility in difficult places (for example, on islands, in border areas, etc.), and fulfilling special missions that are assigned--may be considered for promotion ahead of schedule. After they have been promoted officers must complete the stipulated programs, as stated above.

In wartime, the deadline for considering officers for promotion is shorter than that mentioned in Article 9. That deadline will be determined by the Council of Ministers.

b. The positions of officers.

According to the army's organization in each phase, the Council of Ministers determines a system of positions in the army and submits it for approval of the Council of State. In the past, Decree No 306, dated 20 June 1958, of the Council of Ministers stipulated that a position could be fulfilled by three ranks. For example, a company commander could be a Second Lieutenant, a First Lieutenant, or a Captain; the rank of a deputy battalion commander could be a First Lieutenant, Captain, or Senior Captain, etc. Thus there was an excessive disparity between rank and position. In order to overcome that situation, Article 12 of the new law stipulates that "each position may be filled by a Second Lieutenant or First Lieutenant; the position of company commander can be filled by a First Lieutenant or Captain, etc. That will be determined by the Council of Ministers. That stipulation also serves to bolster and strongly develop the abilities of officers, and create a permanent source of cadres for the army.

The appointment of officers to fulfill positions in the army must be based not only on the organizational requirements--revolutionary qualities and ability in work, as stated above--but also on the health of the officers and the fields in which they were trained (Article 13). Only thereby can the army's cadres be well assigned and used, and only then can the requirements of combat and work in the army be met.

c. The right to appoint officers to positions, commission officers, and promote officers.

In order to be appropriate to the organizational scale and combat-readiness requirement of the army the law stipulates the following regarding authority to appoint officers to positions, designate ranks, and promote officers: the Council of State appoints officers to the positions of Chief of Staff and Director of the Political General Department, and appoints and promotes officers to the ranks of Senior General, Colonel General, and Admiral. The Council of Ministers appoints officers to the positions of deputy commander of a military region, armed forces branch, corps, or combat arm, and to equivalent ranks. It commissions and appoints officers to the ranks of Lieutenant General, Vice Admiral, Major General, and Rear Admiral. The Minister of National Defense appoints officers to the positions of division commander, department head, and equivalent ranks, and commissions and promotes officers from the rank of Second Lieutenant to the rank of Senior Captain.

The echelon authorized to appoint officers to positions and to commission or promote officers is also authorized to remove them from positions and to demote or dismiss officers of that rank (Article 14).

With regard to the transfer of officers, the echelon authorized to create a position is authorized to reassign officers to fill that position. The Minister of National Defense is authorized to transfer deputy commanders of military regions, armed services branches, corps, combat arms, and equivalent positions.

Under emergency conditions, officers filling positions of regimental commander or higher are authorized to remove an officer under his command and replace that officer, but must immediately report to the echelon authorized to approve such actions.

3. Reserve officers:

The new law devotes a separate chapter to stipulations regarding reserve officers, pays more attention to organizing and managing the corps of reserve officers, and makes clear stipulations regarding the sources of supplementation and the training, management, etc., of such officers.

At present our country is in a situation of "both being at peace and having to cope with a many-sided war of destruction waged by the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists, in league with the U.S. imperialists. At the same time, we must be prepared to cope with the eventuality of the enemy starting a large-scale war of aggression."* Therefore, in addition to building up a corps of active-duty officers who are virtuous and able, the new law is concerned with organizing and training a large corps of reserve officers with ability and revolutionary qualities who are prepared to serve when necessary. The law stipulates that reserve officers include Category 1 and Category 2 reserve officers. Officers who have reached the maximum age for active-duty service or who are not qualified for promotion are transferred to a reserve status (Article 23). Noncommissioned officers who have been discharged, graduates of colleges and higher schools, and cadres in sectors outside the army who have specialities needed in military work, and have completed a reserve officers' training course, are eligible for being commissioned as officers and for registration in a reserve status (Article 25). Reserve officers may be considered for promotion on the basis of the results of their military study and their accomplishments in serving national defense. Reserve officers must register at the local military organ where they work or live, and are subject to the management of that organ [Article 29]. Reserve officers are responsible for attending military training courses and receive benefits during the time they participate in concentrated training (Article 30). In peacetime, reserve officers who have not yet served on active duty may be called up for a certain period of time (Article 29).

Those stipulations are entirely necessary and ensure the good organization of the corps of reserve officers, so that they can supplement the corps of active-duty officers should war break out.

4. Obligation and rights of officers.

a. Regarding the obligations of officers:

Officers shoulder heavy responsibilities in the army. In addition to the common obligations of citizens, the new law stipulates separate obligations

* Political Report of the Party Central Committee at the Fifth Party Congress.

for officers. Those obligations are being absolutely loyal to the homeland, the people, and the socialist Vietnamese state; doing a good job of fulfilling missions that are assigned; being exemplary in carrying out the policies of the Party, the laws of the state, and the orders of the army; strengthening the discipline of military personnel in the unit; respecting the collective mastership right of the workers and being into play democracy--and maintaining discipline--in the army; being concerned with the morale and material lives of the military personnel in the unit; continually studying, increasing their political, military, cultural, scientific-technical, and professional knowledge and their ability to organize, command, and manage troops; enriching their revolutionary qualities; strengthening themselves physically, etc. (Article 31).

If active-duty officers commit errors, such as failing to carry out orders or failing to fulfill missions, or commit other errors, they are subjected to military discipline. If they commit crimes they will be prosecuted by law (Article 35).

Reserve officers who violate military discipline or state laws will, according to the specific case be demoted or decommissioned (Article 37).

Furthermore, a noteworthy point is that officers are responsible for serving in the army in accordance with the stipulated age limits (Article 32). In the past, the old law stipulated age limits for service by some officer ranks that were not appropriate to the actual situation (for example, the age limitation of a Senior Colonel was 50 and that of a Major General was 55) and the age limitations for service in the service category were too high (for example, the maximum age of a reserve company-grade officer was 53 and that of a Major was 58). The new law adjusts the maximum ages of a number of active-duty ranks (for example, a Senior Colonel serves until the age 55, etc.) and reserve ranks (for example, a company-grade officer serves until 50, a Major until the age 55, etc.) so that they can be appropriate to the actual situation and in order to have young, healthy cadres to meet the requirements of combat, and to both bring into play the older, experienced cadres and ensure that there is a powerful corps of reserve officers.

b. With regard to the rights of officers, in addition to such rights as benefiting from the salary and allowances system, receiving annual leaves, etc., as stipulated in the past, the law stipulates a number of other rights.

In order to bring the officers' capabilities into play the law stipulates that officers are encouraged and assisted to develop their talent in all spheres of scientific-technical activity. Officers who make valuable research contributions will be appropriately rewarded. Officers may be awarded academic titles and academic degrees, like any other citizen, in accordance with the common regulations of the state (Article 40). In order to create conditions for officers to work contentedly and fulfill their missions, the local administrations are responsible for providing for the spiritual and material lives of their families (Article 41), such as by helping them with housing and with their children's education, etc., to the extent that local conditions permit.

With regard to officers who have reached the maximum age for active-duty service but have not yet reached retirement age, they are given priority in selection for study in schools or for employment by state organs, in cooperatives, or in other social organizations. If they cannot be accommodated they must receive retirement benefits if they have served 20 consecutive years (Article 42). Officers who are to retire or be discharged because of disability must be informed 3 months in advance so that they can prepare and so that they can receive attention with regard to their spiritual and material lives (Article 43).

The above-mentioned rights of officers, which are clearly stated in the law, not only manifest the concern of the Party and state for officers of the VPA but are also intended to encourage officers to contentedly serve for a long time and devote themselves to serving the homeland and the people.

5616

CSO: 4209/140

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

EXPORT CORPORATION EXCEEDS QUOTA FOR EXPORT OF BANANAS

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Hong Van: "Export-Import Corporation Exports 6,000 Tons of Fresh Bananas in One Quarter, Equal to 140 Percent of the Annual Plan"]

[Text] Competing to achieve accomplishments to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the October Revolution and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union, during the third quarter of this year the Vegetable-Fruit-Import General Corporation of the foreign trade sector exported to the Soviet Union 6,000 tons of fresh bananas, equal to 140 percent of the annual plan.

At the beginning of this year's banana season the General Corporation took specific steps to do a good job of carrying out two-way economic contracts, in a manner appropriate to the present conditions of the production of bananas for export, in order to ensure the three benefits. By that means it was able to stimulate production. Many localities delivered a very large quantity of bananas for export. For example, Vinh Phu delivered 4,000 tons, Ha Bac and Hai Hung each delivered nearly 1,000 tons, etc. The General Corporation cooperated with the localities in regulating the harvesting and delivery of bananas and worked with the transportation organs in drafting specific transportation plans. Especially important was the close cooperation between the General Corporation and the maritime transportation of the Soviet Union. Soviet ships arrived at the port of Hai Phong regularly and left the port on schedule. During the fourth quarter the General Corporation will endeavor to increase exports by 1,000 to 2,000 tons of fresh bananas.

The Vegetables-Fruit Export-Import General Corporation has launched a campaign to mobilize fresh oranges for export to the Soviet Union.

After closely monitoring the localities and firmly grasping the orange situation in the production units, the General Corporation made a decision to surpass the annual orange export plan by from 25 to 30 percent. The General Corporation has carried out the signing of contracts with the localities regarding the harvesting, packaging, and delivery of oranges, and has signed transportation contracts with the communications-transportation contracts. In previous years, export oranges shipped from Nghe Tinh to Hai Phong by train and resulted in a high spoilage rate. This year the General Corporation discussed and signed with a number of units contracts to transport oranges from Vinh to Hai Phong by ship. That cuts the transportation time in half and is certain to reduce the spoilage ratio.

The General Corporation and the localities growing oranges are striving to deliver the oranges as rapidly as possible so that the first oranges of this season can reach the Soviet Union while our friends are celebrating its major holidays, which have important international significance.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

SPRING FESTIVAL CEASE-FIRE

OW 31225 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 1230 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Radio talk: "Let Us Silence the Gunshots and Allow the People to Happily Celebrate the Spring Festival"]

[Text] It is the earnest aspiration of people on both sides of the Vietnam-China border and the tradition of peoples of both countries to celebrate the spring festival with joy, pay homage to their ancestors and visit relatives and exchange new year greetings in a peaceful atmosphere. Now, both the Vietnamese and Chinese people living along the border, who have long been enduring the tension caused singlehandedly by the Beijing authorities, eagerly long for the cessation of gunshots so that they can celebrate the festival in peace.

To conform to the aspirations of the peoples of both countries and to respect their tradition, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry sent a note to its Chinese counterpart on 17 January, proposing that both sides cease armed actions and other hostile activities along their common border for 15 [as heard] days from zero hour, Hanoi time, on 5 February to zero hour, Hanoi time, on 19 February 1983 so as to provide the condition for people on both sides of the border to celebrate the festival and greet the return of spring. In addition, the SRV Government has decided to release 35 Chinese citizens who illegally intruded into the Vietnamese territory and to turn them over to the Chinese Government so that they can reunite with their families and celebrate the spring festival at home.

The above proposal of the Vietnamese Government, as well as similar proposals it made last year at the time of the national days of the two countries, indicates the sincerity of the Vietnamese side to ease the tension along the border and to provide a good opportunity for peaceful settlement of the issues between the two countries and for restoration of the traditional friendship between their peoples. Anyone who is aware of the uneasiness of the people on either side of the border and who respects the people's or national tradition with regard to festivals would agree that the Vietnamese proposal is based on humanism and conforms to the will of the people.

The Beijing leadership has often said that peace is beneficial. Now that it is faced with the earnest and just aspirations of the peoples of the two

countries, it is time for it to prove that its actions match its words. As is known to all, previously though the Chinese authorities rejected similar proposals made by Vietnam or even committed armed provocations during the festive period and obstructed the celebrations of festivals, the Vietnamese armed forces strictly and unilaterally implemented the proposals. This time there will be no exception, that is, even if there is no response from the Chinese authorities, the Vietnamese armed forces will still seriously carry out the proposal made by the SRV Foreign Ministry and will resolutely let the people celebrate the spring festival. We hope that the Beijing leaders will attach importance to the Chinese people's aspirations and interests, positively respond to Vietnam's reasonable proposal and, together with the Vietnamese side, create a peaceful atmosphere for the people on both sides of the border to happily celebrate the spring festival. Rejecting Vietnam's proposal is tantamount to going against the aspirations of the peoples of both countries and will inevitably invite their denunciation.

(SO: 4205/3)

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

YEAR OF CARRYING OUT YOUTH UNION CAMPAIGN REVIEWED

Hanoi THANH NIEN in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 82 pp 9-17

[Article by Dong Khac Uyen of the Organization Department of the HCMCYU Central Committee: "Reviewing a Year of Carrying Out the Campaign To 'Build Strong Base-Level Youth Union Organization and Issue Youth Union Membership Cards'"]

[Text] After a year of carrying out the movement to "build strong base-level Youth Union organization and issue Youth Union membership cards," in accordance with Resolution No 03 of the HCMCYU Central Committee, 4,684 branches of 832 base-level Youth Union chapters have been strengthened and have issued membership cards. In such places the number of qualified Youth Union members increased to 87.3 percent, the number of outstanding members amounted to 19.32 percent, and 82.4 percent of the HCMCYU branches attained the "strong" standard.

In general, the campaign has been carried out well, in the spirit of Directive No 06 and Resolution No 03 of the Secretariat of the HCMCYU Central Committee. In the course of an actual survey of the test units in the localities we made the following principal observations:

1. Nearly all of the places had correctly controlled and evaluated the nature and situation of the base-level organization and the Youth Union members, and had taken steps to do a good job of resolving the remaining weaknesses and deficiencies, and had brought about a true qualitative change in order to advance to the issuing of Youth Union membership cards.

On the basis of the decisions and guidance of the HCMCYU Central Committee, many localities, such as Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Vinh Phu, Thai Binh, Nghia Binh, and Hai Phong, and many units in the armed security forces, controlled and evaluated the situation of base-level organization and the quality of Youth Union members, and categorized the bases and members according to quality. Most of the bases selected to be test points were strong Youth Union bases, but among the Youth Union cadres and members there were still problems regarding ideological consciousness and negative manifestations in their actions. Some of the members had too little understanding of the Party and Youth Union and they were not truly tied in with the Youth Union. A number of base-level cadres, especially the key cadres and the

branch secretaries, because they are still limited with regard to capability, ability to organize specific implementation, and methods of mobilizing youths, so many policies and resolutions of the Youth Unions' upper echelon are not thoroughly explained to the members.

Because they took the initiative in surveying and grasping the situation of base-level organization, kept abreast of the ideological changes on the part of Youth Union members, and had the close concern and leadership of the Party committee echelons and the upper Youth Union echelon's direct leadership of the bases, nearly all of the HCMCYU bases did a good job of carrying out the political activity campaign; fully explained the directives, resolutions, plans, stipulations, and regulations regarding the issuing of membership cards; launched a revolutionary action movement among Youth Union members; and gave rise to a seething emulation spirit. In the course of the emulation campaigns, all Youth Union members, branches, and chapters reviewed and evaluated their progress toward maturization, on the basis of the five qualifications of HCMCYU members, the five missions of the base-level HCMCYU chapter, and the revolutionary action program for which they have registered. At the same time, the weak, deficient base-level branches and chapters received guidance in holding congresses, perfecting the base-level branch and chapter apparatus, and organizing training for cadres with regard to each specific aspect and task. By means of study, the Youth Union members gradually became more conscious of their honor and responsibility.

In the Youth Union bases that issued membership cards before carrying out the campaign, between 65 percent and 70 percent of the members attained the struggle standards, but now the number of members who make good efforts and are fully qualified to receive membership cards has risen to between 85 and 95 percent. The number of branches attaining high standards, which was 60 percent in the past, has risen to 82 percent, and in many bases the total is more than 90 percent. After issuing membership cards the Youth Union organizations maintained good activities, the corps of Youth Union cadres has continually been improved, and the solidarity and sense of responsibility of the cadres and Youth Union members. Many cadres have gained experience in grasping and managing the quality of Youth Union members, guiding the revolutionary activities of youths, and the method of organizing Youth Union activities. That has been an outstanding good point in the issuing of membership cards during the recent period.

2. The principles, stipulations, and regulations regarding the filling out and managing of Youth Union membership cards have been strictly implemented.

From a nationwide point of view, this is the first time we have carried out the task of issuing Youth Union membership cards, a task which has the nature of being a principle and has a scientific and professional nature. The contents of the principles, stipulations, and regulations regarding the filling out and management of membership cards include specific tasks that are arranged in a certain order. They play a very important role in the issuing of membership cards and in managing Youth Union members, and have a positive effect on educating the members and improving their consciousness of the Youth Union.

During the recent trial card issuing cycle at the provincial and district levels, first of all the Youth League echelons from the provincial level down to the base level did a good job of applying the six contents during the preparatory phase, while at the same time doing a good job of selecting and training the cadres to fill out cards. The Youth Union chapters of Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh provinces, the Youth Union chapter of the Ministry of Interior, the party affairs section of the Central Communications-Transportation Youth Union Chapter and the Vinh Phu, Hanoi, Ha Son Binh, and Quang Nam-Da Nang chapters paid attention to bolstering the district-level cadres, the key cadres at the base level, and the branch secretaries, so that they could firmly grasp the principles and specific contents and requirements. The executive committees of the base-level Youth Union chapters and village branches stressed the rectification of files and record books and the verification of the documents of Youth Union members, guided the photographing of members, explained to the members the stipulations and regulations regarding the registration of Youth Union members, helped them grasp the contents of the new documents, and enabled them to realize their responsibility in filling out membership applications and registrations. Each cadre at the base level was assigned a specific task, which enabled the work to be carried out simultaneously. Those measures enabled the recent trial membership card issuing cycle to attain good results, limited the number of deficiencies, and avoided waste.

3. Do a good job of organizing ceremonies for issuing party membership cards.

With regard to the five principles concerning the organization of ceremonies to issue Youth Union membership cards, in general no place committed major mistakes. However, enabling the ceremonies to issue membership cards to create a good impression, have a profound educational effect on Youth Union members, and truly be festival days for youths is not an easy, simple task. That requirement is dependent on many factors, such as the ability of cadres to conduct the ceremonies, the psychology of the Youth Union members who arrive to receive their cards, the operational facilities, etc. The most important matter is that there must be meticulous, detailed preparations, from the contents of the documents used in the ceremonies to the opinions of the speechmakers, the feelings of the Youth Union members and the people conducting the ceremony, and Youth Union members must be carefully rehearsed, so that when they accept their membership cards the members will fully manifest their sense of responsibility and the honor, enthusiasm, and pride of a member of the HCMCYU.

4. Leadership and guidance have been strengthened.

After the recent trial membership card issuing cycle the localities and units were able to gain much experience in leadership and guidance and in the specific organization of the task of issuing Youth Union membership cards.

First of all, in their leadership the party committees and Youth Union committees emphasized fully explaining the objectives and requirements of the campaign to "build strong Youth Union base-level organization and issue Youth Union membership cards." In exercising their leadership many localities and

units reached the conclusion that the campaign was a major political activity for youths and was an important measure for building strong base-level Youth Union organization and improving the quality of Youth Union members and the combativeness of the Youth Union organization.

After the organizational conference held at Hue in April 1982, and after the directive of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, many provincial and municipal Youth Union chapters reviewed their leadership and guidance of the campaign and sent additional cadres to examine and correct distortions and deficiencies at the lower echelon. Many provinces have taken the initiative of cooperating with the provincial party committees in drafting plans for the party committees to lead the Youth Union in carrying out the task of issuing membership cards. The provincial party committees of Hai Hung, Vinh Phu, Ha Nam Ninh, Thai Binh, Quang Nam-Da Nang, and Nghia Binh, and the party committees of the Political General Department of the VPA, the Ministry of Interior, Xuan Loc District (Dong Nai Province), Nong Cong District (Thanh Hoa Province) and many other district and city party committees issued prompt directives and official documents to lead and guide the party committees, sections, and sectors in showing concern for creating all necessary conditions so that the Youth Union could carry out the campaign and issue membership cards, and in being concerned with ensuring the actual benefits of youths.

Because there are still many difficulties, in order to provide material bases for the task of issuing cards, many provinces have taken the initiative of seeking creative measures for organizing labor to build up the funds of the Youth Union bases. Quang Nam-Da Nang organized fund-building labor on the scale of the province and the districts. Many other provinces effectively combined the full utilization of funds provided by the state with the funds raised by the Youth Union and the contributions of the Youth Union members. Therefore, they began the issuing of membership cards under favorable conditions.

In the process of carrying out the campaign, many localities and bases tied it in with education about and the implementation of the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress, stepping up the revolutionary activity movement, and competing to victoriously implement the missions set forth by the National Party Congress and the local party committees. Therefore, they have contributed positively to the fulfillment of the political missions of each locality and unit.

The transformation of the cadres, Youth Union members, and base-level Youth Union organizations in the course of issuing Youth Union membership cards caused some cadres and Party members who had fully evaluate youths now better understood, and had more confidence in, youths. Many party committees highly evaluated the Youth Union organization and regarded the issuing of membership cards as a good opportunity for selecting outstanding Youth Union members and introducing them to the Party and for providing the Party with additional cadres.

In addition to the above-mentioned results there are still a number of deficiencies and weaknesses which are worthy of attention:

In some places the goals, requirements, and contents of the task of issuing membership cards were initially not fully and comprehensively understood, so the issuing of membership cards has not been tied in with carrying out the campaign to build strong base-level Youth Union organizations. They have not yet drafted specific plans and agenda for the task of issuing cards, or else they have plans but they are not based on a survey and evaluation of Youth Union members and the base-level organizations. In some cases there has been a lowering of requirements and the belief that the issuing of party membership cards is only a specific task with a purely administrative nature, so it has been carried out but has not created a new spirit and a new quality on the part of the bases and members.

A number of provincial and municipal Youth Union chapters have not paid attention to training cadres with regard to issuing membership cards. In some places cadres who have undertaken training at the upper echelon have been assigned other work upon their return, or else there has been a change of cadres in charge of organization in the province but the changeover has not been carried out meticulously, so implementation has been beset with many difficulties and much confusion. In some district and city Youth Union chapters there has been the phenomenon of carelessness, of wanting to finish the job even though meticulous preparations have not been made.

Some localities, although at the beginning of the year they issued membership cards to outstanding cadres and members, in the second quarter committed the noteworthy error of arbitrarily signing the cards. The situation of using two handwriting styles and two kinds of ink on the same card, cutting and pasting photographs crookedly, and allowing ink and paste to make the cards messy or ruin them has not been overcome. Those deficiencies have partially restricted the results and quality of the task of issuing cards and has caused the waste of a considerable number of cards.

The main reason for the above-mentioned deficiencies and weaknesses has been the leadership and guidance of a number of Youth Union committees. The upper echelon's direct control of the lower echelon has not been close and had not promptly uncovered and corrected errors. In some places there still exists the situation of assigning that task to the cadres in charge or to the organization cadres and not mobilizing the combined strength of the apparatus of the entire system. Furthermore, because the cadres issuing the cards have not demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility, in some places there have been instances of carelessness which have led to the ruining of cards or to their having to be done over according to regulations, so effectiveness is low.

The results that have been attained, the outstanding good points, and the remaining deficiencies and weaknesses have helped us to more fully examine and analyze the situation of the implementation of the campaign to "Build strong base-level Youth Union organizations and issue Youth Union membership cards" in our localities and units. On that basis we must have plans and measures to organize the stronger, higher-quality implementation of the task of issuing Youth Union membership cards in accordance with the common plan and schedule set forth by the Secretariat of the Youth Union Central Committee so that the campaign to "Build strong base-level Youth Union organizations and issue Youth Union cards" can attain greater results throughout the nation.

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

IMPROVEMENT IN YOUTH UNION'S CONTROL WORK URGED

Hanoi THANH NIEN in Vietnamese No 10, Oct 82 pp 19-20

[Article by Luu Xuan Tiep: "The Youth Union's Control Work Must Be Promoted and Renovated"]

[Text] Control is an activity of long standing which is closely related to all activities of society and man, whether those activities are individual or collective, for the activities of man always tend to want to reach the greatest possible heights. Therefore, it is essential to carry out the control work. Sophisticated and complicated tasks and collective activities on a society-wide scale require control. If control is regarded lightly or is not carried out well, few results will be attained and the activity may fail. Everyone knows that control has always been tied in very closely with leadership and is a part of leadership. Therefore, Youth Union chapters that are concerned with and emphasize the control work also pay attention to the quality of leadership.

Only during the past few years has our Youth Union's control work concentrated on resolving violations of discipline, complaints regarding discipline, and letters and, in part, on control of the Youth Union's expenditures. That is appropriate to the present situation because control is a new task, there are few cadres, and the cadres lack professional experience. Now, because of the requirements of the Youth Union development task, control must be strengthened and changed with regard to contents, form, and quality.

During the past 5 years, the period in which the Youth Union has been concerned with control, control committees have been set up in essentially all provinces and municipalities, more than 20 of which have at least two specialized cadres; 65 percent of the districts and precincts have elected control committees; and the remaining districts and precincts, and many bases, have assigned cadres to be in charge of control.

At first many of the control committees were still confused with regard to their functions and missions, and passively waited for their problems to be resolved, but now they have mastered their work, drafted plans and determined their contents, and taken the initiative in controlling the bases directly under them.

The control committees of Dong Thap, An Giang, Phu Khanh, Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu, and Quang Ninh provinces, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Hai Phong, etc., and especially those of Hong Ngu District in Dong Thap Province, Cai Be District in Tien Giang Province, Hong Bang Precinct in Ho Chi Minh City, etc., have maintained regular activities, determined the contents of and drafted control programs and plans, and set up many groups to control the districts and precincts in the provinces and the villages and subwards in the districts. That has had an educational effect by reminding everyone to do a better job of carrying out the statutes and resolutions of the Youth Union, while also making it possible to realize the difficulties and problems of the bases, adopt plans and measures to provide them with timely assistance and overcome the situation of the upper echelon knowing only how to send down orders and the lower echelon knowing only how to carry out the orders.

The form of joint control in large areas of the nation, which has begun to be applied, is regarded as an innovation in control. During the first 6 months of 1982 the Central Control Committee organized joint control in six Mekong Delta provinces, during which it reached the following conclusions:

1. Joint control brought into play the combined strength of the control task. The central and local echelons worked together in carrying out the control, which added to the control groups' authority.

When a control group arrived at a province it placed a strict requirement on the standing committee of the provincial party committee. The entire standing committee (or the members of its steering committee) reported to the control group on the implementation of the statutes and Resolution 03 of the Party Central Committee in the locality.

2. The inspections allow the provinces to exchange work experiences with one another and hold discussions with one another in order to resolve the base-level problems. After reporting to the inspection team the comrades of the Youth Union chapter of Cai Be District in Tien Giang Province reached the following conclusion: all principles and regulations of the Youth Union were recorded very clearly in its statutes, that the base had many a mistake because it did not fully understand the statutes, and that therefore the entire Cai Be chapter would study the Youth Union statutes in order to grasp them and work in accordance with them, which would enable the chapter's discipline to become more strict. After inspecting the categorization of organizations and members in order to issue Youth Union membership cards in Subward 6 of My Tho City the control group reached an important conclusion: Subward 6 had very closely combined the quality of Youth Union members with organizational quality, and made organizational quality the premise for improving the quality of members. The branch of school B in Subward 6 had 18 members. After a categorization was carried out it was determined that 13 members were qualified to receive cards, but the inspection group felt that the branch was still weak and was not capable of acting on its own, so although 13 members were qualified to receive cards they still would not be issued them, and it stipulated that only if the members became more closely bond to the branch and helped it make progress would they be issued cards. Clearly, those were good, useful experiences that must supplement one another.

3. Finally, there was control of the control task, which enabled the provincial standing committees to clearly understand the role of the control task: all provincial realized their deficiencies in perfecting the district and base-level control committees, and that they had therefore not paid attention to selecting and assigning capable cadres to do control work. Therefore, all provinces drafted supplementary plans to strengthen the control work. The key leadership cadres of An Giang, Dong Thap, Hau Giang, Tien Giang, and other provinces expressed confidence and enthusiasm, realized the usefulness and practicality of the control task, and expressed hope that the central echelon would carry out additional control so that there could be better understanding of the localities and in order to assist them more practically and regularly.

Under the light of the resolution of the Fifty Party Congress, all work of the Youth Union must be changed with regard to the operational mode, in order to create the greatest possible effectiveness for the youth movement and the Youth Union work. The control task must be in the vanguard in that renovation. We believe that the principal direction should be heighten consciousness at all Youth Union echelons and comprehensively promote the Youth Union activities, in order to increase the combined strength of the control task. That strength is manifested in two respects:

First it is necessary to expand cooperative relationships and seek the many-sided assistance and aid of the Party's control committees, the State Inspection Commission, and the activities of many sectors and echelons relevant to the work of the Youth Union and the education and training of the Young generation. It is necessary to expand cooperative relations with other chapters in order to continually exchange experiences, exchange documents, and train the Youth Union's control cadres.

Second, it is necessary to increase the combined strength of control within the Youth Union itself, including the control of the Youth Union echelons, the control of the control committees at the various echelons, and the control of the bases and self-control by the masses. Each control force plays an important role and has its own effect, but the important thing is to simultaneously bring into play the combined strength of all three forces, of which control by the bases and self-control by the masses are decisive. The control committee (especially its specialized element) plays the role of a hard-core assault force in the over-all control work. In other words, the control committees at the various echelons both serve as staffs for the Youth Union committees (with regard to drafting plans and determining contents, including the organization of forces carrying out the control) and are themselves responsible for carrying out control (serving as models). They are also responsible for guiding and assisting the bases and masses so that they can do a good job of controlling all of their activities and enable the control work to consciously blend in with all other tasks, objectives, and echelons of the Youth Union. Wherever there are mass organization and activity there must be control. That is an important educational measure and in the struggle to prevent negative phenomena from arising in the Youth Union and contribute to maintain even stricter discipline in the Youth Union.

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

DISTRICT CONTROL OF COMMERCIAL CORPORATIONS EXPANDED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Dec 82 p 1

[Article: "Nationwide, 200 Districts Directly and Fully Manage Commercial Corporations; 369 Districts Receive Responsibilities in Budget Management"]

[Text] (VNA) Along with stepped-up production, the task of circulation and distribution at the district level has achieved a number of remarkable results.

The commercial network has been reorganized in the districts, most of which have set up a commercial corporation to buy and sell. At present, nationwide, 200 districts directly and completely manage 200 commercial corporations. In recent days, these integrated commercial corporations have contributed to serving production and the people's livelihood. They have created favorable conditions for district people's committees to raise their spirit of responsibility in leading and guiding commercial activities, fulfilling the obligation of delivering products to the state, coordinating production with distribution at the basic level, and serving more properly production and the people's livelihood in the districts.

So far, throughout the nation 183 district provisions supply corporations have been set up--134 in 328 northern districts, and 49 in 182 southern districts. All these districts have organized their own supply corporations, complete with many stores, by merging supply stations from various sectors into a single unit, and they have carried out economic accounting under direct district management. Although the organization is still new, and although many new problems continually need to be solved, such as allocating discount rates to business equipment, and computing transportation costs of supplies from provinces to districts..., district supply corporations by improving their business methods, have achieved better results.

Nationwide, the provinces have so far delegated financial and budget management responsibilities to 369 out of 413 districts. In northern provinces and cities (north of Binh Tri Thien) especially, the districts now manage 1,500 state-operated economic installations with fixed properties totaling 650 million dong, 120,000 cadres, workers and civil servants engaged in production, and 380,000 cadres, workers and civil servants engaged in administrative and business affairs.

Overall, the establishment of corporations, such as integrated commercial and supply ones, and the delegation of financial and budget management responsibilities to the districts have achieved a number of initial results, thus serving production and the people's livelihood better. However, since the organization is new and experiences are few, the task of distribution and circulation at the district level still encounters shortcomings and weaknesses, which need correction. District marketing cooperatives are not yet stable; the fact that the socialist market in the districts has not been reorganized and not expanded has slowed up the formation and development of district economies; and the handling of supplies in support for production, especially agricultural production at the district level, has not expanded.

9213

CSO: 4209/175

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

COLUMN CHARGES ONLY OLD MILK IS AVAILABLE, EXCEPT ON BLACK MARKET

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 11 Nov 82 p 4

[Consumers advocate column by "The Builder": "A Story a Day: Information Surely Well Known to Stores"]

[Text] Coming home with milk, the father immediately opens up the package and prepares it for the children. Some time after the meal, the baby has to go to the bathroom. The cause is clear: the powdered milk has turned yellow, has a sour smell, and is lumpy. The inscription on the top of the box reads: 7-1981. That means the milk is unusable. Because the ration coupon had been used, the father ran right out to Hang Buom.

Here, powdered milk is rather plentiful. That produced in April 1982, is 140 dong a box. The type produced in July 1981, is 85 dong a box. The merchant clearly points out that the more expensive kind is for consumption by children; adults can still consume the cheaper kind.

Having bought the 140 dong type, the father opens it and breathes a sigh of relief: the powder is pure white and fragrant. His child just drinks it up.

Milk for children is becoming scarce. In view of all this, the writer took a stroll around the market and learned the following:

Powdered milk produced in July 1981, is still to be found in a number of stores. It was still for sale at the store on 12 Bo Ho Street on 9 November 1982.

Powdered milk produced in April, 1982, is sold, but there is not much available, so wherever it is found, it is quickly sold out.

Also on 9 November, the department store OK Sundry Goods Store in Cho Hom was completely out of powdered milk.

Meanwhile, not only powdered milk produced in April, 1982, but also Thong Nhat and Ong Tho brands of milk in liquid form, produced in May 1982, are sold on the sidewalks of Hang Buom.

So, what could explain this situation of having "none in the house (i.e. in state stores), while plenty is sold out in the street"? Is it just that the milk sold here privately is milk brought back from the south by people, each bringing "a few cans for gifts" and not using them all, therefore selling them? But that milk is in liquid form. Where is that powdered milk from?

Is it a matter of issuing coupons for some kind of purpose? Or does some warehouse have a crack in the wall?

The distribution agency should take notice of the issues mentioned. One thing sure is that when this little article goes into print the order will go out to trade services to cease sales of powdered milk produced in July, 1981, and distributed to sundry goods stores.

9830

CSO: 4209/153

AGRICULTURE

PROFITABILITY OF STATE FARMS NOTED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Dec 82 pp 1, 4

[Article: "New Developments in State Farms Throughout the Nation; 85 Percent of State Farms in the North and Many in the South Returned a Profit]

[Text] (VNA) In 1982, the year of success in agricultural production, 370 state farms throughout the nation have also taken a turn for the better. Main products, such as rubber, coffee, oranges... have fulfilled and overfulfilled their plan, and their production has increased by 5 to 10 percent, compared with 1981. State farms in a number of localities have achieved remarkable success.

Six state farms in Ha Nam Ninh have produced more rush, tea and rice than ever--3,300 tons of rush, 540 tons of tea and 1,106 tons of paddy. Especially, Binh Minh State Farm has exceeded the plan by 300 tons of rush. From 8,370 hectares of rice, 7 state rice farms in Hau Giang Province have harvested 14,371 tons of paddy--the highest volume of production ever. Song Hau State Farm (Hau Giang) has sowed and transplanted 2,770 hectares of rice, and has gathered an average 19 quintals of paddy per hectare. Eight state farms and 1 rice farm in Dong Chap Province expect a fairly high yield from their 4,576 hectares of rice; in 3 of these state farms--Long Bien, Quyet Thang and Dong Thap--the rice is rather good and rice production is profitable. The Federation of Tea and Coffee Enterprises in Lam Dong Province has produced 3,367 tons of processed tea and 320 tons of coffee beans, representing 102 percent of planned export value.

All state farms in Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa and Ha Son Binh Provinces have exceeded the plan in terms of orange and tea production. As for oranges, production norms have been exceeded at 8 state farms: Co Do, 19 May, Dong Hieu, Bai Phu, Thanh Ha, Song Boi, Cao Phong and 2 September. All bovine, hog breeding and fowl corporations have overfulfilled the plan, in terms of numbers and products. Milk production has achieved 100.8 percent of the plan; hog breeding and meat production, 109 percent. Because of high productivity and production many state farms in the north were profitable. Many state farms in southern provinces and cities are also profitable, although they have been set up recently.

While stepping up production, state farms have paid attention to cadres' and workers livelihood, especially helping them improve living conditions and carry out sideline family business. Product contracting has led to development growth, and, therefore, to a higher income on the part of cadres, workers and civil servants. Many state farms have drawn up plans for cadres, workers and civil servants to build comfortable housing quarters.

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CSO: 4209/175

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

LAM DONG NEW ECONOMIC ZONE POPULARIZES FAMILY PLANNING

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 16 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Cao Duc Hy, M.D.: "Family Planning in Hanoi New Economic Zone"]

[Text] A salient characteristic of the population of the Lam Dong New Economic Zone is sudden and continuous change caused by waves of population influx from Hanoi and the return of cadres from their assigned tours of duty. As of the end of 1981, the total population of the zone had tripled, and the total number of families was 300 times that of 1976.

Population increase by movement of people is accompanied by a rather high birth rate here. In 1979, 270 children were born, a rate of 2.6 percent. Meanwhile, life was rather difficult during those first years of establishing the new economic zone; without attention to the matter of family planning living conditions would not have improved for the people, and the health of future generations would have been seriously impaired.

From these observations, the Party committee and construction committee leadership of the new economic zone resolutely guided women to practice family planning for a reasonable number of children, so that the health of mothers could be guaranteed, children could be taken care of better, and women would have time to study, work, and carry out missions. To guide the family planning drive of the zone a committee was formed by the secretary of the Party committee, with the chairman of the construction committee, to serve as chairman, and the head of the general hospital to serve as vice chairman of the standing committee; committee membership was provided by the mass organizations for youth, women, and the trade union. The guidance committee set up a network for itself that reached all the way out to cooperative enterprises and agencies. Each Party chapter secretary, agency head, and Party member set his own standards for promoting family planning like he did for his own specialty. The medical sector made many efforts to overcome problems in acquiring specialized equipment and supplies and technicians by establishing liaison with the Lam Dong Province Family Planning Center and the Central Institute for the Protection of Mothers and Children in Ho Chi Minh City and secured help in equipment and professional specialty training for cadres. Propaganda sessions to popularize general information on family planning were organized to reach each citizen through special conferences or through the loudspeaker system. Parallel with the

propaganda effort, the hospital held many gynecology examination sessions far away from the hospital, thereby encouraging women to practice family planning, especially by implacing the intrauterine loop. In preparation for the campaign, the committee assembled statistics on the number of women of childbearing age and the number of childbirths per unit for use in explaining the importance of the campaign to each person.

Women who used the intrauterine loop or had planned abortions, apart from established standards, were allowed to take additional time off and to buy supplemental food and medicine. Specifically, women with intrauterine loops could buy .5 kg of sugar and one can of milk at supply cost and were allowed 10 days leave with pay, and those women in the collective sector were given 10 days off with workpoints. This appropriate, concrete policy got the drive off to a timely start.

Over the two years the campaign had been in effect at the end of the 3d Quarter of this year, 678 intrauterine loops had been implaced and two women had received abortions in the zone (which amount to 27.5 percent of the women); the number of loops implaced during the campaign amounts to 75.12 percent of those presently in use in the zone. The zone is the leading unit in Lam Dong Province, with 7 percent of the population practicing family planning. Units that have done well with family planning in the zone are: Thanh Tri Cooperative, with 7.4 percent; Tu Liem Cooperative, with 7.2 percent, Dong Anh Cooperative, with 7 percent, and Nam Ban Town, with 7 percent.

Success with the family planning task resulted in a natural reduction in the population growth rate: in 1980 it was 1.82 percent; in 1981, 1.78 percent; the prediction for 1982 is 1.63 percent.

The Hanoi New Economic Zone received the first-place banner of Lam Dong Province for carrying out family planning.

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CSO: 4209/153

POPULATION, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

THE IMPERTINENCE OF THE SOUTH

Le Monde 12 Dec 1975 12 French 3 Jan 83 p 5

Article by special correspondent Jacques de Barrin

[Text] Four years after the entry of Vietnamese troops into Cambodia the Khmer problem is still far from settled (LE MONDE, 7 January). But the Vietnamese do not seem to have definitively rejected the Sihanouk hypothesis.

Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville--"O Holy Night," "Angels We Have Heard On High," "Silent Night, Holy Night"--carols in a state cafeteria. "After all, it's Christmas," says the manager of the Hoang-Viet, and after all--one could add to that rather short explanation--we are in Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville (ex-Saigon). This establishment--completely renovated--even offers its customers French champagne at 1,500 dongs a bottle.*

Further down the same street, the peoples' committee of the city** has just planned to renovate the old Maxim, at great expense. "We have imported all the building materials," says the head of that theater-restaurant, whose Marxist aggressive neon signs strangely light up the rue Dong Khoi (ex-rue Catinat).

Private restaurateurs and cafe owners, who according to M Le The Thuong, deputy director of cultural services in the southern capital, "were furious--in planning profiles and covering up pernicious activities," have had to shut up shop or are threatened with expulsion. The proliferation of this type of establishment--with 26,000 licensees in 1972 compared to 12,000 in 1975--troubled the city authorities. In a speech to municipal officials early in December, peoples' committee chairman Mai Chi Tho denounced with rare violence all those "bandits, traffickers, thieves of socialist property, and corrupt employees" who frequent those evil haunts for carousing and debauchery, while worthy servants of the state "sweat blood to defend and build socialism."

*A dollar is worth about 100 dongs on the black market, and a tenth of that at the official rate.

**The peoples' committee takes the place of the municipality.

A "Neo-colonialist Market"?

Since they despair of ever leading the inhabitants of Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville by speeches alone to adopt the socialist way of life, the local authorities, if they wish to have even minimal control over the situation, must meet their adversaries on the latters' own ground. If certain people yearn to "make a pile," well stop them, if in the end the city can profit from their mad spending? For lack of anything better, is not state capitalism preferable to wildcat capitalism?

In Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville the free market prospers more than ever. Nearly 300 tons of goods arrive each month by air. "Our enemies encourage refugees to send parcels to their relatives from abroad," complains Gen Tran Hai Phung, commander of the southern capital's armed forces. "Those parcels are received by 180,000 families, and their value comes to tens of millions of dollars yearly."

How is the rebirth of a "neo-colonialist American market" to be avoided? M Thuong talks of "clearing the sidewalks." M Mai Chi Tho is considering "grouping street vendors by specialty to fight speculation and inflation." At the very least, municipal officials would like to get the overseas Vietnamese to ship through their associations rather than as individuals, and to send more essential items--more textiles and medicines and fewer hi-fi sets.

Since in the present state of the economy it cannot dam that flood of Japanese, American, or Western consumer goods, the peoples' committee seeks to derive some profit from it under cover of municipal trading companies. Thus Fidimex simply assumes the role of broker between shippers and recipients of family parcels. "We charge a dollar per kg to cover distribution costs," states managing director Ngo Van Phuong, "and we process 20 tons of goods per week."

Fidimex has begun to open shops in which besides a few local products it offers articles taken directly from family parcels, but also goods imported directly from Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan, including particularly audio-visual equipment. That is a rather unorthodox way to combat, on a very modest scale, the proliferation of open-air stalls. "We align our prices on those of the free market," M Phuong points out. Purchases are paid in dong, though customers are free to pay in dollars, with conversion at a rate close to that of the black market.

Because it has always maintained very close relations with the outside world, Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville has its own import-export facilities. Imex-Saigon thus controls a dozen specialized firms. Through them the peoples' committee last year reached a foreign trade turnover of \$200 million, of which the firm of Rhone-Poulenc alone accounted for \$15 million. The management's ambition is to raise turnover to "a billion in 1985."

Is the system too lax? A "general import-export company" will henceforth keep very close watch on the activities of its "affiliates" and will take charge of all negotiations with foreigners. The thought cannot be ruled out that thanks to that reorganization the Hanoi authorities may have acquired the means of preventing possible "backsliding."

A Bogus Plot, and Real Scandals

"Trade is about the only thing functioning in Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville," we might be tempted to say. To central committee chairman Hoang Tung the concerns caused by the southern metropolis for the central authorities "are first of all economic. It is an employment problem. Local industry is operating at only half its capacity." That is due to the after-effects of war. The situation is all the more intractable because the population is unbelieving and disillusioned, and opposes change by a passive resistance difficult to break down.

In the countryside collectivization is marking time. M Le Xuan Dinh, the agricultural ministry official responsible for external relations, counts but 100 "true cooperatives" in the 9 Mekong delta provinces. The socialist suffers a cruel lack of good managers. A school has just opened near Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville to train some. "We must set the example to break down the convictions of people who cling to individual production."

In the context of coming struggles for "socialist reform" Vietnamese leaders are calling on everyone to redouble his vigilance. In an article in the October issue of TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN, the army's monthly review, Gen Tran Hai Phung identified all those who in Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville are resisting the future: "troops of the puppet army (468,000), personnel of the puppet administration (37,656), members of reactionary political parties (453,000), Catholics (13.6 percent of the population), Buddhists (60,000), and Vietnamese of Chinese extraction (480,000)"--all told, a good many people.

None of those "enemies," however, directly threaten the security of the south. Armed subversion? There is much talk of it abroad, but according to Col Tran Cong Man, editor-in-chief of the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, the Unified Front for Liberation of Oppressed Races numbers but "a few hundred men" confined on the high plateaus.

Did the local authorities recently thwart a plot hatched by "Peking reactionaries and American imperialists" in an unidentified district of Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville? A recent article by Gen Phung* seemed to indicate as much, but "there was nothing to it," the general explains. "The incident to which I referred goes back to 1979. And it should be added that the rebels, at the time of their arrest, were simply stirring up ideas in their heads."

That article nonetheless illustrates the anxiety and impatience shown for several months by certain circles within the party and state leadership in the face of the defiance hurled at them by the south. It must indeed be admitted that the latter has not always made the best use of the liberties

*LE MONDE, 2 December 1982.

allowed it by the central authority. There are organized black market circuits, corruption is generalized, and everything can be bought, even exemption from military service--for 3,000 dong.

Public rumor makes charges of scandals: the peoples' committee of Cantho province is said to have bartered rice for whisky; the state corporation Cholimex is charged with trafficking in gold with Singapore; and employees of a certain tire factory are accused of using the facilities, after working hours, to make shoes for sale on the black market.

The "hardliners" of the regime today have good cause to maintain that those southerners definitely are incorrigible profiteers, ready to resume their bad old ways as soon as they are given free rein. Last March, the fifth Vietnamese CP congress took a harder line, and in August, at Dalat, the politburo confirmed it was taking things back in hand. A vain effort?

A Ruse Against the North?

As if to preserve precarious gains, those around Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville busy themselves to avoid offering to northerners the spectacle of internal quarrels which the latter would be tempted to settle to their advantage. Whence M Mai Chi Tho's recent allusion to shortcomings and faulty management arising from "the childish way in which the CP and the peoples' committee share responsibilities."

Is that a way of putting off the north? The southerners' public pronouncements could not be more revolutionary: "The general principles of socialism are applicable throughout the country," declares M Mai Chi Tho. They are not, in his view, subject to differing interpretations according to local conditions. And with splendid optimism, announcement is made of "essential completion of agricultural and crafts collectivization by 1985."

Sheep's eyes yesterday, black looks today. And tomorrow? Everything seems a matter of circumstances and relative strength. In truth, Hanoi leaders don't quite know how to handle the south. Things cannot possibly be left to drift, for time will inevitably accentuate differences. Neither is it possible to forge ahead too fast, for management probably would not follow. "We are staking much on future generations," says M Le The Thuong hopefully. But Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville's urchins very soon learn to thumb their noses at the "Lien Xo" (Soviets).

The fact remains that the pragmatism the Vietnamese leaders must exercise makes the differences in economic behavior between north and south somewhat less glaring, and could in the long run lead to their rapprochement. One thing is certain: recourse to market economy mechanisms is more significant above the 17th parallel than are advances in agricultural socialization below it. And if Hanoi's inhabitants are growing in assurance, and want to know and say more about it, perhaps that is a sign of the happy influence on them of their countrymen of Ho-Chi-Minh-Ville.

POPULATION, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

BRIEFS

COMPLETION OF TEXTBOOKS--(VNA) Following many years of study and research, the Ede ethnic minority language editing committee in the Dac Lac Educational Service has completed work on a set of Ede-language textbooks for Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4. At present, these textbooks are being used on an experimental basis in 56 classes in schools attended by numerous Ede ethnic minority children. These Ede-language textbooks have been written carefully, and in keeping with the psychological and physiological needs of ethnic minority children. Subjects were illustrated with photographs and pictures showing highland villages, upland fields, creeks, mountains and forests, which help students understand easily and memorize promptly. It is worth noting that, in the past, many Ede families refused to enroll their children, and that now, upon knowing that Ede language and Ede alphabet are being taught, hundreds of mothers and fathers have brought their children to school. The Dac Lac Educational Service has selected teachers who are capable, love their work as well as the children, to teach experimental classes in the Ede ethnic minority language. [Text] [Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Dec 82 p 4] 9213

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Feb 24, 1983